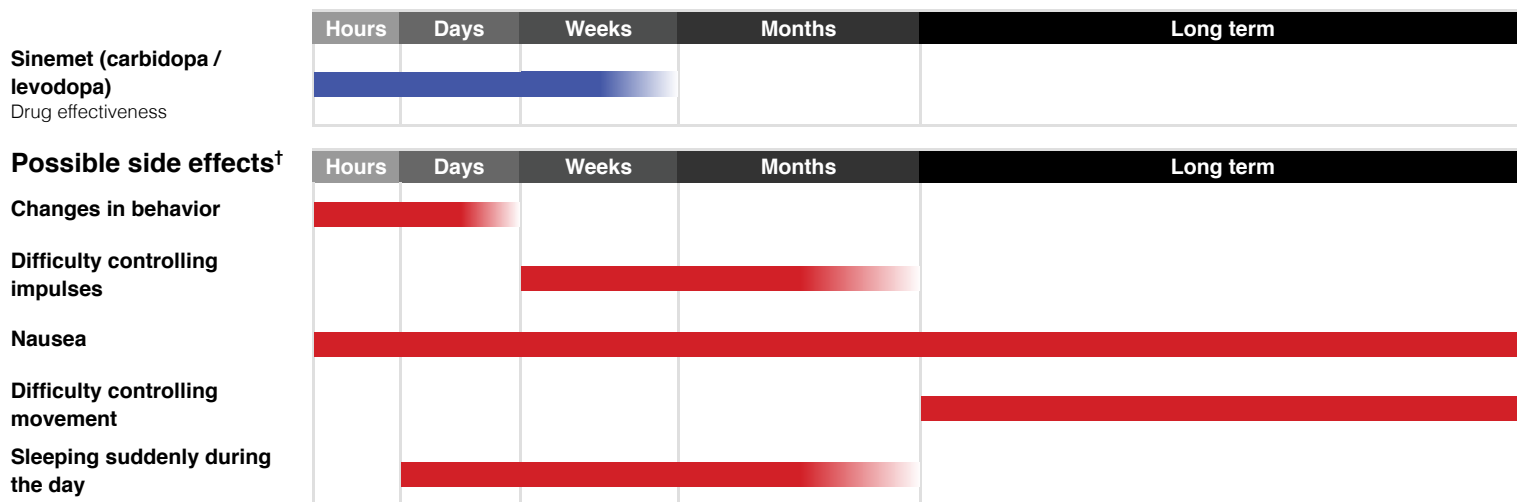


Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) basics

Treats Parkinson's disease. Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) is the first choice treatment for Parkinson's disease.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Can make you very sleepy. Don't drive or do anything that requires concentration until you know how your body reacts to it.
- Can stain your saliva, sweat and urine a dark color.
- Take Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) 30-60 minutes before a meal so that your body can properly absorb it. Don't eat too much high protein foods (meat, milk, cheese or nuts) because doing so can prevent it from getting absorbed into your body.
- If you notice Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) wearing off sooner than you'd like, talk to your doctor. How much and how often you take it may need to be adjusted.
- Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) may cause unusual cravings in some people.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Falling asleep during the day

Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) can make you very sleepy. This is more likely to happen if you are also taking other medicines for Parkinson's disease. Don't drive or do anything that requires your full concentration until you know how Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) affects you.

High fever and confusion

Stopping Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) suddenly can be very dangerous. You may develop a high fever, sweating, stiff muscles, and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Talk to your doctor about how to stop taking Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) safely.

Changes in behavior

Some people taking Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) have complained of hallucinations and other changes in behavior. This happens soon after you start taking Sinemet (carbidopa / levodopa) and usually goes away if you lower the dose or stop taking the medicine. Talk to your doctor if this bothers you.