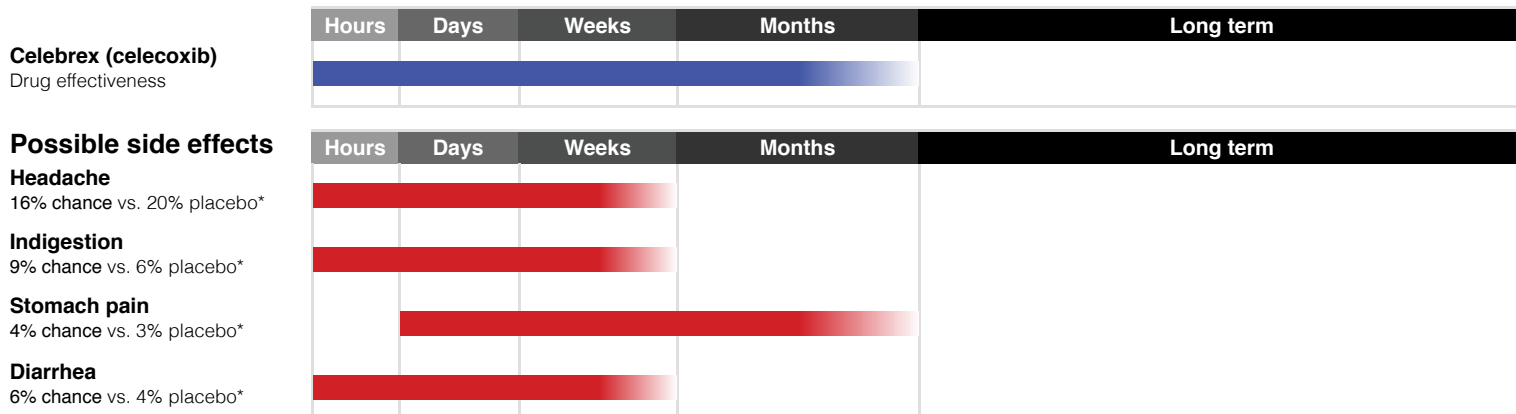


# Celebrex (celecoxib) basics

**Relieves pain and inflammation.** Celebrex (celecoxib) works well for treating pain, but is not a good option if you have heart problems.

## What to expect when starting

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



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Celebrex (celecoxib) can be taken with or without food.
- Capsules should be swallowed whole. If you have difficulty swallowing the capsule whole, it can be emptied onto a teaspoon of applesauce and given immediately with water. The contents of the capsules sprinkled onto applesauce can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 6 hours.
- Celebrex (celecoxib) can hurt your kidneys, so talk to your doctor if you have a history of kidney problems.
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking medications that thin your blood. Celebrex (celecoxib) can be unsafe and increase your risk of bruising and bleeding and/or having stomach ulcers.
- Celebrex (celecoxib) interacts with many over-the-counter pain medicines and some cold remedies. Check with your pharmacist first to make sure you have chosen a product that won't interact with Celebrex (celecoxib).

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Heart attack and stroke

Taking Celebrex (celecoxib) for extended amounts of time can raise your risk of heart attack or stroke, especially if you've had a history of heart disease or are planning a heart bypass surgery. Take Celebrex (celecoxib) for the shortest amount of time possible needed to control your symptoms to lower this risk. Talk to your doctor about alternatives to Celebrex (celecoxib) if you're going to have heart bypass surgery.

### Stomach bleeding

Taking Celebrex (celecoxib) can raise your risk of ulcers and bleeding in the stomach and intestines. Celebrex (celecoxib) has the lowest risk of causing this compared to the other medications in the class. Talk to your doctor if you suddenly get sharp pains in your stomach or you notice bright, red blood in your stool or dark, tarry stool.

### Increased blood pressure

Celebrex (celecoxib) can raise your blood pressure, especially if you have a history of high blood pressure. Check your blood pressure regularly as instructed by your doctor if this becomes a concern.