

Celontin (methsuximide) basics

Prevents seizures. Celontin (methsuximide) can prevent absence seizures when other medications don't work, but requires periodic blood monitoring because of some serious side effects.

What to expect when starting

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

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Celontin (methsuximide) Drug effectiveness		■			
Possible side effects[†]	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Drowsiness	■				
Dizziness	■				
Headache	■				
Blurred vision	■				
Nausea or vomiting	■				
Irregular bowels (constipation or diarrhea)	■				

[†] Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- You will start taking Celontin (methsuximide) once daily. Your daily dose may be increased by your doctor over the first month.
- Take Celontin (methsuximide) with or without food.
- Don't stop taking Celontin (methsuximide) without first talking to your doctor. Stopping Celontin (methsuximide) suddenly can result in serious life-threatening seizures (status epilepticus).
- Don't use Celontin (methsuximide) if the capsules don't look full or if the contents in the capsule have melted.
- You will need periodic blood and urine testing to make sure you are tolerating Celontin (methsuximide).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Changes in blood counts

Celontin (methsuximide) may change the number of important blood cells in your body, such as white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. Talk to your doctor if you notice bruises that don't heal, prolonged bleeding, sore throat, or fever. You should be getting regular blood tests to make sure your blood counts don't change too much while taking Celontin (methsuximide).

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Celontin (methsuximide) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when the dose changes. Report anything concerning to a doctor immediately.

Driving impairment

Taking Celontin (methsuximide) can make you feel sleepy, dizzy, and affect your coordination. Avoid activities that require you to be alert, such as driving a car or operating machinery, until you know how Celontin (methsuximide) affects you.