

Thorazine (chlorpromazine) basics

Stabilizes your mood. Thorazine (chlorpromazine) has more side effects than other medicines like it. It is most useful during psychotic episodes because it slows you down quickly.

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
Thorazine (chlorpromazine) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Drowsiness	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Weeks]				
Jaundice			[Red gradient bar from Weeks to Months]		
Increased risk of infections			[Red gradient bar from Weeks to Months]		
Low blood pressure	[Red gradient bar from Hours to Days]				
Difficulty controlling movement			[Red gradient bar from Weeks to Months]		

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Can make you very sleepy so don't drive or do anything that requires concentration until you know how it affects you.
- Can cause involuntary muscle movements just like other medicines for your mood.
- Can dry you out and make you more sensitive to the sun.
- Don't combine with alcohol or narcotics because it can cause you to stop breathing.
- Cannot be stopped suddenly.

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.

Increased risk of death

Older people who have dementia and psychosis have a higher risk of death if they take antipsychotic medicines like Thorazine (chlorpromazine). They shouldn't be given this medicine.

Difficulty controlling movements

Thorazine (chlorpromazine) can cause restlessness and involuntary muscle movements, especially if you've been taking it for a while. Call your doctor right away if this happens.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

Antipsychotic medications like Thorazine (chlorpromazine) can cause neuroleptic malignant syndrome which is rare but life-threatening. Symptoms include a very high fever, sweating, stiff muscles, and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Call your doctor or 911 right away.