

Cholbam (cholic acid) basics

Maintains bile acids. Cholbam (cholic acid) is the only approved medicine to help with bile acid production in some rare genetic conditions, but requires frequent liver monitoring.

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
Cholbam (cholic acid) Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar indicating effectiveness from Hours to Months]				
Possible side effects	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Nausea†	[Red bar]				
Diarrhea 2% chance	[Red bar]				
Acid reflux†		[Red bar]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Cholbam (cholic acid) with food at least one hour before or 4 to 6 hours after taking a bile acid binding resin (Questran, Welchol) or antacids containing aluminum (Mylanta, Maalox).
- Don't crush or chew Cholbam (cholic acid).
- If you're giving Cholbam (cholic acid) to a child, you can open the capsule and mix it with 1 to 2 tablespoonfuls of breast milk, infant formula, or soft foods such as applesauce and mashed potatoes. Make sure to stir, let the medicine dissolve, then give immediately.
- You will need frequent monitoring of your liver while taking Cholbam (cholic acid).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Worsening liver problems

Cholbam (cholic acid) can cause current liver problems to worsen. Let your doctor know if you have any other types of liver problems before starting Cholbam (cholic acid). If you experience yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine, pain in the upper right side of the stomach, unexpected nausea, or vomiting, get medical help right away. Make sure you're regularly seeing your doctor and are getting your liver checked.