

Treats allergies. Claritin (loratadine) is a once-daily medicine for allergies that won't make you as sleepy as other medicines that work like it.

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
Claritin (loratadine) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Headache					
Drowsiness					
Dry mouth					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take it once a day with or without food.
- Talk to your doctor if you need to use it for more than a few weeks. Other medicines may work better.
- The dissolving tablet contains aspartame (phenylalanine), which are not good for people with phenylketonuria.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Difficulty concentrating

Claritin (loratadine) can lower your ability to focus, think, and react. Be careful. Avoid activities that require you to be alert, such as driving a car or operating machinery, until you know how this medicine affects you.

Excess phenylalanine

Many of the dissolving tablets of Claritin (loratadine) contain phenylalanine, which can be dangerous for people with phenylketonuria (PKU). The regular tablets do not contain phenylalanine and would be much safer. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.