

Colace (docusate) basics

Softens your stools. Colace (docusate) softens the stool, but may not stimulate a bowel movement as quickly as a laxative.

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
Colace (docusate) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Changes in taste	[Red gradient bar]				
Diarrhea		[Red gradient bar]			
Nausea	[Red gradient bar]				
Cramping	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- The pill form should work in 1-2 days, while the enema form works in 5-15 minutes.
- Make sure to stay hydrated and drink plenty of fluids while taking this medicine.
- Don't use for more than 7 days unless instructed by your doctor.
- Don't use this medicine if you are experiencing stomach pain, nausea, and vomiting.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Complete or partial blockage of intestines

Stop taking Colace (docusate) and call your doctor right away if you have nausea, vomiting, or stomach pain that doesn't go away. Also, if you have rectal bleeding or no bowel movement after taking Colace (docusate) for 7 days, stop using it and talk to your doctor.