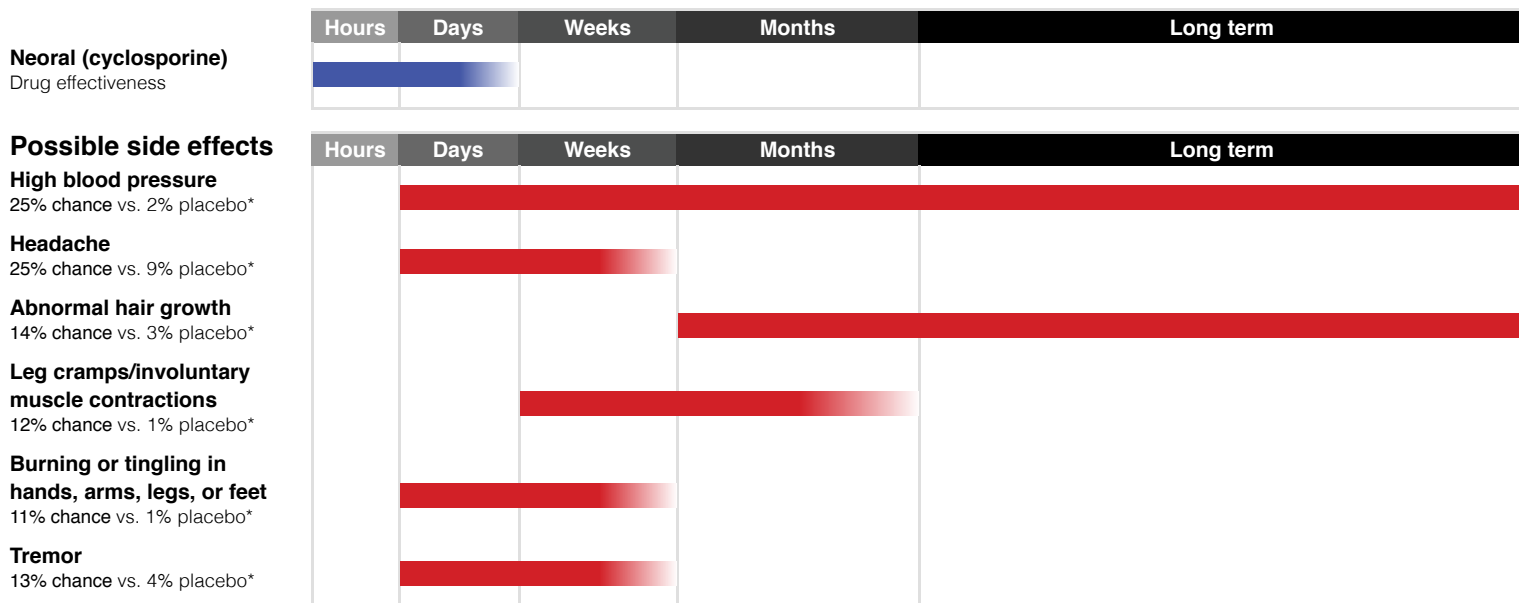


Neoral (cyclosporine) basics

Suppresses the immune system. Neoral (cyclosporine) is good at preventing rejection of a transplanted organ, and is also used for treating rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis.

What to expect when starting

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



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take the capsules whole. Don't open, crush, or chew capsules.
- Stir the liquid with room temperature apple juice or orange juice to make Neoral (cyclosporine) taste better. Drink right away. Rinse container with more juice and drink.
- Don't take grapefruit or grapefruit juice while on Neoral (cyclosporine).
- Store the liquid at room temperature, not in the fridge. Toss any unused liquid medicine 2 months after opening the bottle.
- Neoral (cyclosporine) (modified) and Sandimmune (cyclosporine) are dosed differently and absorbed by your body differently. Don't take them together. Don't switch between them without talking to your doctor.
- Try to time your lab visits so that you first get your blood tests done before taking your next dose of Neoral (cyclosporine).

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.

Cancer

Long-term use of Neoral (cyclosporine) can raise your risk of skin cancer and lymphoma (cancer of the immune system). Limit your exposure to sunlight and check your skin regularly. Let your doctor know right away if you have skin changes, prolonged fevers, unexpected weight loss, extreme tiredness, or lumps in your neck, armpit, or groin.

Serious infections

Neoral (cyclosporine) can raise your risk of serious or life-threatening bacterial, fungal, and viral infections. If you develop symptoms of fever, chills, muscle aches, or you notice dark urine, appetite/weight loss, vomiting, or a skin rash, tell your doctor and get medical care right away.

High blood pressure

Neoral (cyclosporine) can cause high blood pressure, especially if you have or are at risk for high blood pressure. Check your blood pressure often, and let your doctor know if your blood pressure rises or if you feel dizzy or lightheaded.