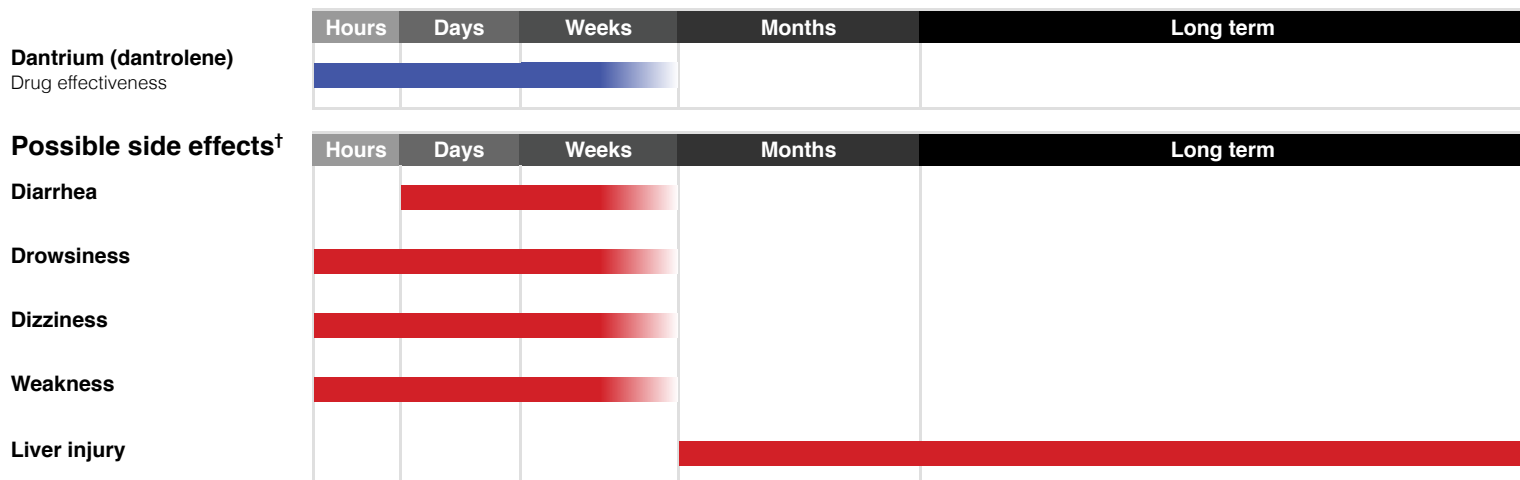


Dantrium (dantrolene) basics

Relaxes your muscles. Dantrium (dantrolene) effectively treats malignant hyperthermia (increased temperature and muscle contractions when receiving anesthesia) and is the only medicine used to treat the condition. Dantrium (dantrolene) is not a first-choice treatment for general muscle spasms because it can damage your liver.

What to expect when starting

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



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Dantrium (dantrolene) can worsen liver function. You may need to have your blood checked regularly before starting Dantrium (dantrolene) and while you're on it.
- Dantrium (dantrolene) can make you feel very tired or sleepy. Don't drive or do anything that requires concentration until you know how it affects you.
- Dantrium (dantrolene) can cause diarrhea, but it usually goes away within the first few weeks. If it doesn't, talk to your doctor.
- May make your skin sensitive to the sun. Wear sunblock and avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight while on Dantrium (dantrolene).

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.

Liver injury

Dantrium (dantrolene) has been associated with liver damage, which can be serious. Although the chances of having liver injury increase with higher doses, some people have had damage taking as little as 400 mg a day. Symptoms include fever, rash, lack of appetite, abdominal pain, dark urine or yellowing of the skin and eyes. Call your doctor right away if this happens.

Drowsiness and dizziness

Taking Dantrium (dantrolene) may make you feel dizzy or sleepy for the first few days, especially if you drink alcohol or take recreational drugs. Avoid driving or other activities requiring concentration until you know how your body responds to the medication. Your body should adjust to the medicine. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if these symptoms bother you.

Sun sensitivity

Dantrium (dantrolene) can make your skin sensitive to the sunlight. Use sunblock and avoid excessive exposure to sunlight.