

# DDAVP (desmopressin) basics

**Treats certain bleeding disorders, diabetes insipidus, and bedwetting.** DDAVP (desmopressin) can treat several conditions and comes in different forms. Be sure to take DDAVP (desmopressin) the way your doctor tells you to.

## 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
<b>DDAVP (desmopressin)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Possible side effects†</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Headache</b>	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Abdominal cramps</b>	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Nausea</b>	[Red bar from Hours to ~1 day]				
<b>Changes in blood pressure</b>	[Red bar from Hours to Weeks]				
<b>Low sodium levels</b>		[Red bar from Days to Weeks]			
<b>Injection site reactions</b>	[Red bar from Hours to ~1 day]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- If you're taking DDAVP (desmopressin) for diabetes insipidus or bedwetting, your doctor may want you to limit the fluids you drink.
- You may take the pill form of DDAVP (desmopressin) with or without food.
- If you're taking the nasal pump spray form of DDAVP (desmopressin), the pump must be primed before you use it. To prime pump, press down four times.
- After a certain number of sprays, the nasal spray bottle won't spray enough medicine. The brand Stimate should be thrown away after 25 sprays. The brand DDAVP is thrown away after 50 sprays.
- Be sure to keep the nasal spray at room temperature, do not refrigerate it.

## 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.

### Low sodium levels

DDAVP (desmopressin) can cause dangerously low sodium levels, leading to seizures, coma, respiratory arrest, or death. Your doctor will make sure your sodium levels are normal before you start DDAVP (desmopressin).

### Fluid retention

DDAVP (desmopressin) can cause you to hold onto fluids. This can be dangerous if you have heart failure and/or high blood pressure. Talk to your doctor if you have sudden weight gain or swelling in your arms and legs that doesn't go away.

### Kidney problems

DDAVP (desmopressin) can cause or worsen kidney problems. If you already have severe kidney damage, you can't take DDAVP (desmopressin).