

Migranal (dihydroergotamine) basics

Treats migraine headaches. Migranal (dihydroergotamine) is not as good as other medicines to treat migraines because of side effects, but it can be an alternative if these haven't worked.

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
Migranal (dihydroergotamine) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Nose and throat irritation					
Heart and lung problems					
Blood vessel issues					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Don't smoke while you're taking Migranal (dihydroergotamine) because it can make the side effects worse.
- If you're using the injectable version of Migranal (dihydroergotamine), you have to wait at least 1 hour after your first dose to inject another dose. The most you can use is 3 doses every 24 hours.
- If you're using more than 6 vials of the injectable Migranal (dihydroergotamine), or 2 bottles of the nasal spray in a week, talk to your doctor.
- You can only use Migranal (dihydroergotamine) to treat migraines. It can't be used to prevent them from happening.

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.

Drug interactions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist right away if you're taking Migranal (dihydroergotamine) and you have to take macrolide antibiotics or medicines for HIV called protease inhibitors. Migranal (dihydroergotamine) can last a lot longer in the body if you take those medicines. You're at higher risk for stroke and less blood supply to your arms or legs if you take those medicines and Migranal (dihydroergotamine).

Lung and heart changes

Using Migranal (dihydroergotamine) daily for a very long time can cause an increase in tissue and scarring in your lungs and heart that can lead to breathing and heart problems. If you have taken Migranal (dihydroergotamine) for a long time, talk to your doctor to see if you should be using other medicines for your migraines.

Heart attack or rhythm problem

If you have high blood pressure or heart disease, you shouldn't be started on Migranal (dihydroergotamine). You're more likely to have a heart attack or rhythm problem. You should talk to your doctor about taking other medicines for migraines that are safer than Migranal (dihydroergotamine).