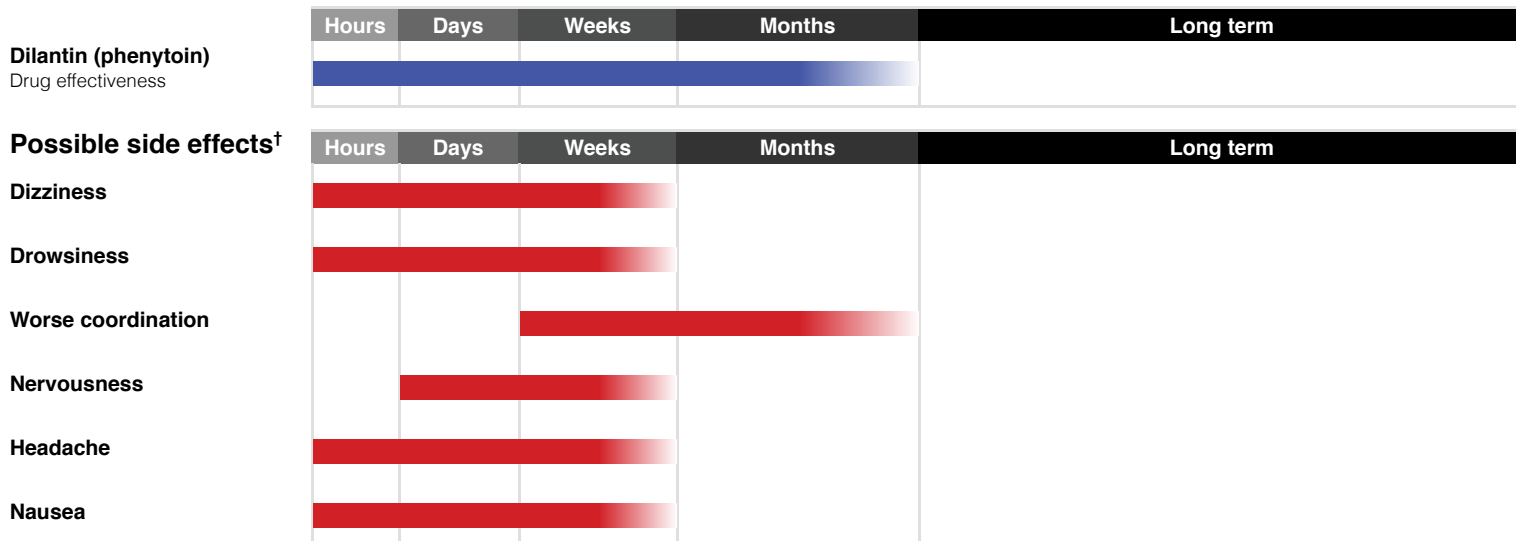


# Dilantin (phenytoin) basics

**Treats and prevents seizures.** Dilantin (phenytoin) is very good at treating and preventing seizures, but it has many drug interactions and some serious side effects.

## 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

- Stopping Dilantin (phenytoin) suddenly might cause more seizures. If you want to stop Dilantin (phenytoin), talk with your doctor first. Your dose should be lowered over a period of at least 1 week to prevent withdrawal seizures.
- Tell your doctor about any over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you're taking, as these can interact with Dilantin (phenytoin).
- Dilantin (phenytoin) can cause dizziness, worse coordination, and sleepiness. Don't drive or do anything requiring concentration until you know how it affects you.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Severe skin reactions

Rarely, Dilantin (phenytoin) can cause severe, life-threatening skin reactions including toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS). If you notice a rash or any other skin changes while taking Dilantin (phenytoin), tell your doctor right away.

### Serious liver damage

Dilantin (phenytoin) can cause liver damage, sometimes from an extreme allergic reaction; however, this is very rare. If you get a fever, stomach pain, an unusual skin rash, or yellowing of your eyes or skin while taking Dilantin (phenytoin), talk with your doctor right away.

### Changes in blood cell counts

Although rare, Dilantin (phenytoin) can lower the amount of important blood cells in your body, such as white blood cells, platelets, and red blood cells. You should be getting regular blood tests to make sure your blood cell levels don't change too much while taking Dilantin (phenytoin).