

Elitek (rasburicase) basics

Lowers uric acid to stop kidney damage in cancer patients. Elitek (rasburicase) is an extremely effective but expensive medicine that can quickly lower uric acid blood levels and prevent kidney damage in people with cancer.

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
Elitek (rasburicase) Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Possible side effects					
Low oxygen in the body†		[Red bar spanning Days]			
Blood reactions†		[Red bar spanning Days]			
Serious allergic reaction†	[Red bar spanning Hours]				
Nausea 57% chance	[Red bar spanning Hours]				
Swelling in hands, feet, ankles 50% chance		[Red bar spanning Days]			
Vomiting 38% chance	[Red bar spanning Hours]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Elitek (rasburicase) is very effective in lowering uric acid levels in the blood, this helps prevent kidney damage in children and adults.
- Elitek (rasburicase) is given in the hospital over a single 5 day period.
- Shown to be more effective and much faster than allopurinol (an alternative medication), which also lowers uric acid levels.

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.

Serious allergic reactions

Elitek (rasburicase) can rarely cause serious allergic reactions. If you experience difficulty breathing, chest pain, swelling in the face and throat, itching, or dizziness/lightheadedness, let the person who's giving you Elitek (rasburicase) know right away.

Blood reactions

Rarely, Elitek (rasburicase) can cause serious blood reactions. This is more likely to happen if you have a genetic condition called G6PD deficiency, which is more common if you are of African or Mediterranean descent. Common symptoms include pale skin, fatigue, fever, confusion, dizziness, and weakness. Your doctor will check your blood regularly while you're taking Elitek (rasburicase).

Lack of oxygen to the body (methemoglobinemia)

Rarely, Elitek (rasburicase) can cause people to have very low oxygen, which can be dangerous. Your doctor or nurse will check your oxygen and your blood regularly in the hospital while you're taking Elitek (rasburicase). Talk to your doctor if you have questions.