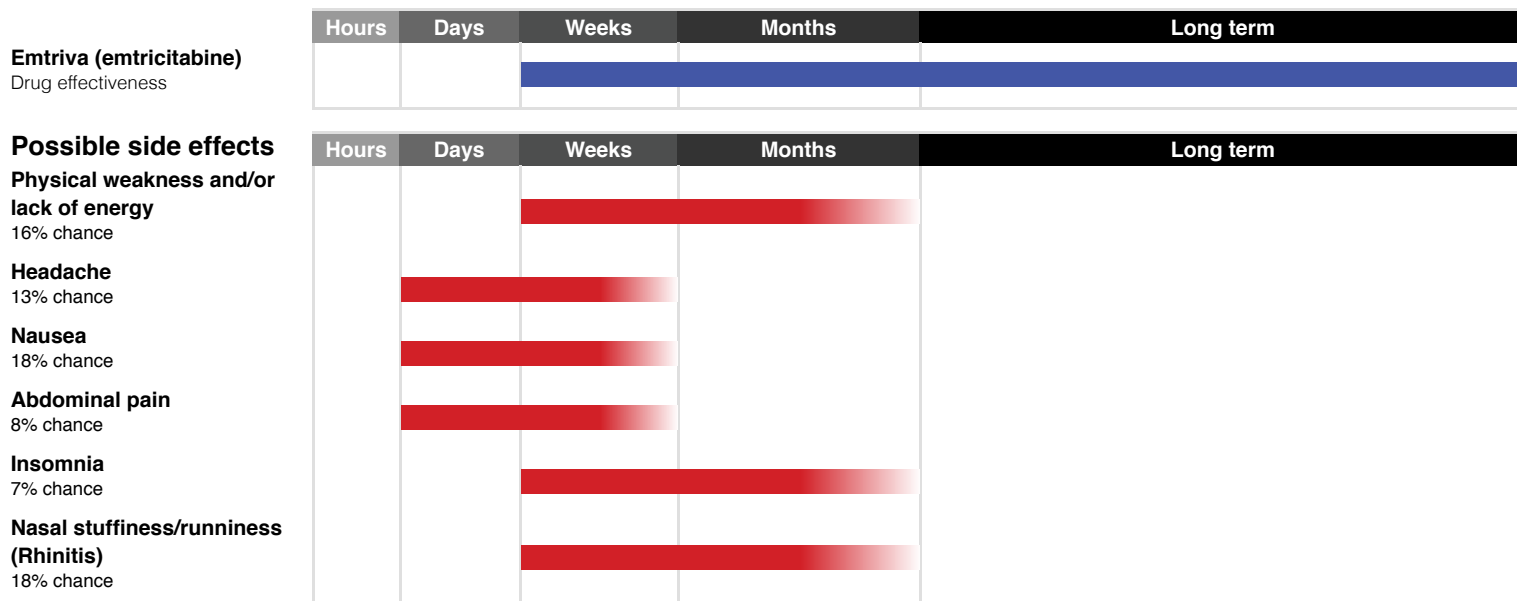


# Emtriva (emtricitabine) basics

**Works with other medicines to treat HIV infection.** Emtriva (emtricitabine) is a first-line and commonly used drug that is taken in combination with other HIV medications to treat or prevent HIV.

## What to expect when starting

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



## Tips from pharmacists

- Emtriva (emtricitabine) should be taken at the same time everyday, with or without food.
- For missed doses, take one if you remember within 12 hours of your regularly scheduled time. Don't take extra medicine or double up if you've missed a previous dose.
- Keep your regularly scheduled doctor's and lab appointments. These help ensure your medication is working well and safely.
- Immediately report any signs of liver problems (jaundice, dark urine, yellowing of eyes, etc.) or sensitivity reactions (rash, fever, fatigue, difficulty breathing, etc.) to your prescriber.

## 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.

### Worsening hepatitis B infection

If you have hepatitis B while taking Emtriva (emtricitabine), stopping Emtriva (emtricitabine) can worsen the hepatitis infection. Your doctor will test you before and during HIV treatment to see if you have hepatitis B. If you do have it, your doctor will provide regular blood tests to make sure your liver is ok, and might put you on medicines for your hepatitis.

### Lactic acidosis | Enlarged, fatty liver

Emtriva (emtricitabine) can cause this rare but life-threatening condition. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, nausea, vomiting, right sided stomach pain, and dark urine . This is a medical emergency and you should get help right away.

### Immune reconstitution syndrome

Taking Emtriva (emtricitabine) can strengthen your immune system's response to infections that were hiding when your body was too weak to defend itself. Call your doctor if you experience fever, difficulty breathing, or sudden changes to your health.