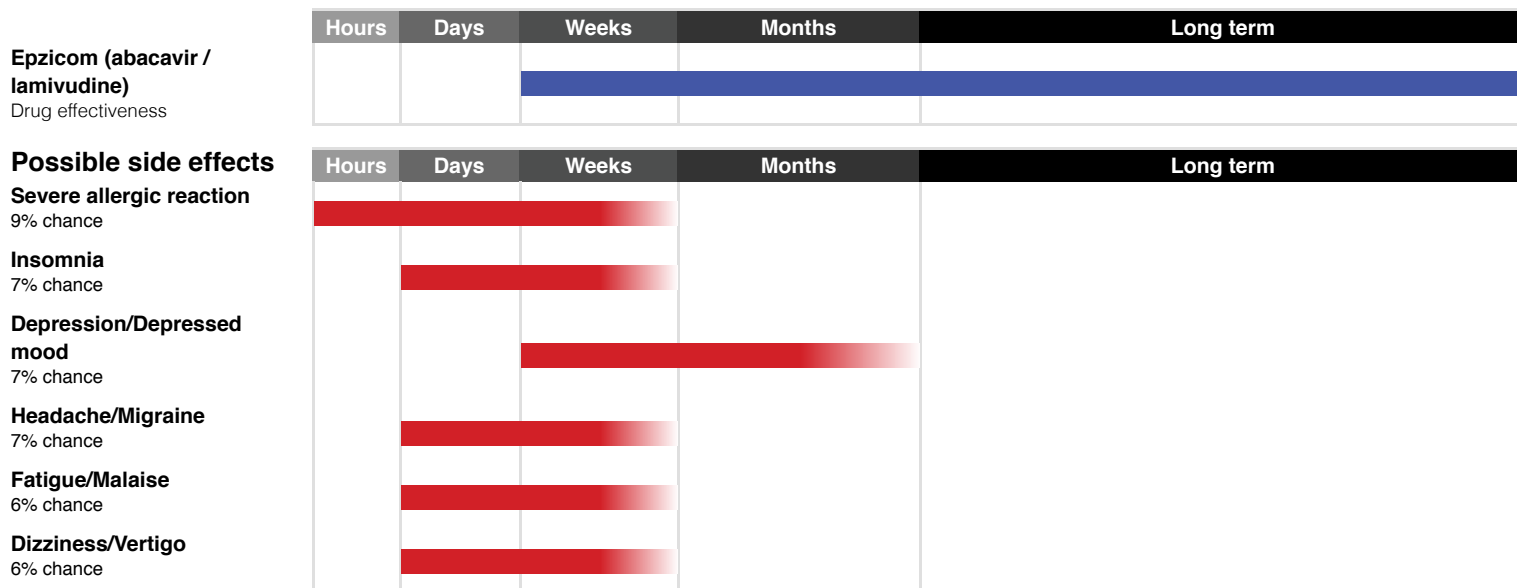


Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine) basics

Works with other medicines to treat HIV infection. Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine) contains two medicines in one tablet, used with other medicines, to treat HIV infection. Your doctor does need to test you before you start it to make sure you don't get an allergic reaction.

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

- Avoid drinking alcohol when taking Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine).
- 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 doctor.
- Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine) will not stop HIV from being transmitted so continue to practice safe behaviors that can stop this from happening, like safer sex and drug use habits.
- Don't stop taking Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine) without talking to your doctor first, especially if you have hepatitis B.

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.

Severe allergic reaction

The abacavir in Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine) can cause serious, and sometimes fatal, allergic reactions. Before considering Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine), your doctor will do a genetic blood test to see if you're likely to have this reaction. Call your doctor or go to the emergency room right away if you experience any rash, fever, nausea, flu-like symptoms, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pains, shortness of breath, and/or difficulty breathing.

Lactic acidosis and Fatty liver

Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine) can cause this rare but life-threatening condition. Symptoms include deep and rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain. This is a medical emergency and you should get help right away.

Acute exacerbation of hepatitis B virus (HBV)

Severe worsening of Hepatitis B has been seen in patients who have stopped taking Epzicom (abacavir / lamivudine). Your doctor will do regular blood tests to check your liver. Immediately report any signs of liver problems (jaundice, dark urine, yellowing of eyes, etc.) to your doctor.