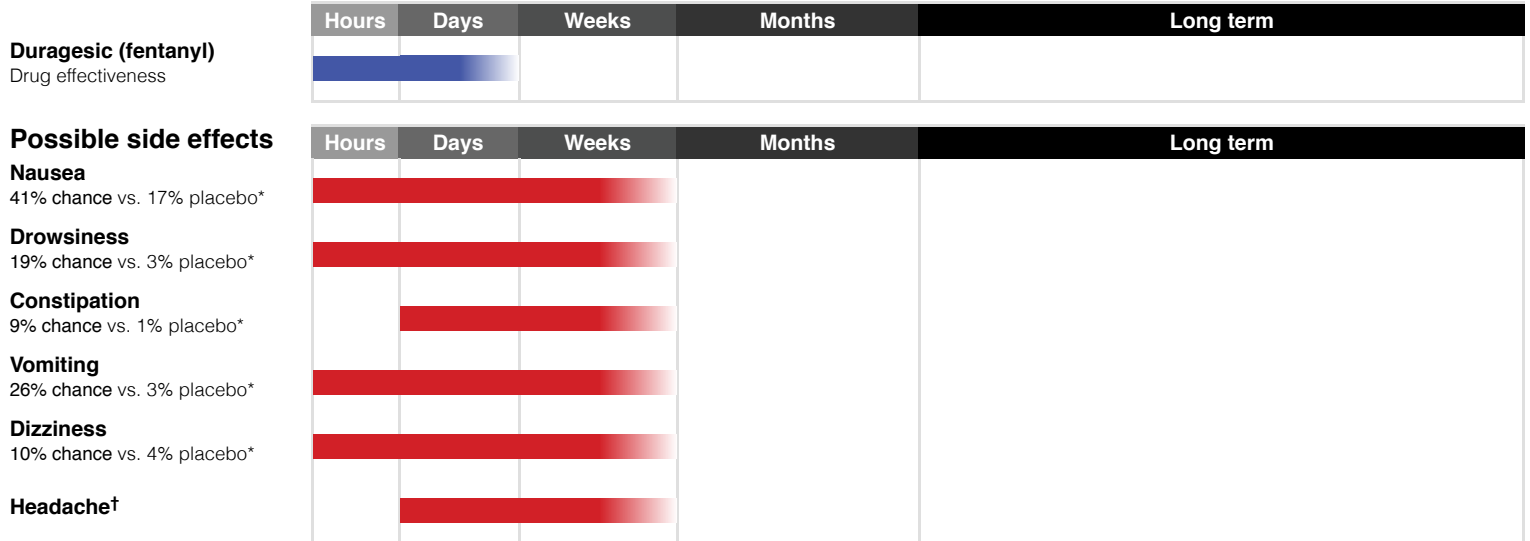


Duragesic (fentanyl) basics

Treats severe pain. Duragesic (fentanyl) is an excellent pain reliever, but should only be used by people who've tried other opioid pain medications and still need more relief.

What to expect when starting

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



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Duragesic (fentanyl) should only be used for people whose pain is not controlled by other opioid medications for at least one week.
- For pain, the patch takes 12 hours to start working and all other forms start working in 30 minutes or less.
- If using the patch, keep it away from heat sources like heating pads, or else it'll cause too much of the medicine to be released into your skin.
- Never stop taking Duragesic (fentanyl) suddenly or else you'll have withdrawal effects. To stop taking Duragesic (fentanyl), talk to your doctor. You'll need to lower your dose slowly over a period of time.
- Never drink alcohol when using Duragesic (fentanyl).
- Can make you sleepy and dizzy. Avoid driving or other activities that require alertness until you know how Duragesic (fentanyl) affects you.

Risks and warnings

This drug carries significant risks, including addiction.

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Slowed breathing (respiratory depression)

Taking too much Duragesic (fentanyl) can cause irregular or slow breathing that can put you in a coma and cause death. Your risk is greater if you drink alcohol, take other opioid medications, or take benzodiazepines. If you have asthma or COPD, taking Duragesic (fentanyl) is generally not recommended. If you start to feel like you can't breathe or your lips and fingers are turning blue, go to a hospital immediately. Many drugs interact with Duragesic (fentanyl) and affect its levels in your blood, including some antibiotics, HIV medications, and anti-seizure medications.

Death from overdose

Even one dose of Duragesic (fentanyl) can be too much for children. Keep it out of reach from children. If you suspect your child has taken Duragesic (fentanyl), go to a hospital immediately and the doctors can give a medication that reverses its effect.

Death in newborn babies from opioid withdrawal

Let your doctor know if you have used Duragesic (fentanyl) during pregnancy. Your baby may need special care after birth.

This information relates to fentanyl prescribed for Severe pain. This should not be taken as medical advice or guidance on your prescription, and is not a substitute for a health care provider's judgment. Any decision about the treatment or the reliability of information is the sole responsibility of your health care provider.

For more information and to see what other people experienced, check out [/drug/fentanyl](#).

or stopping any new medications or supplements.