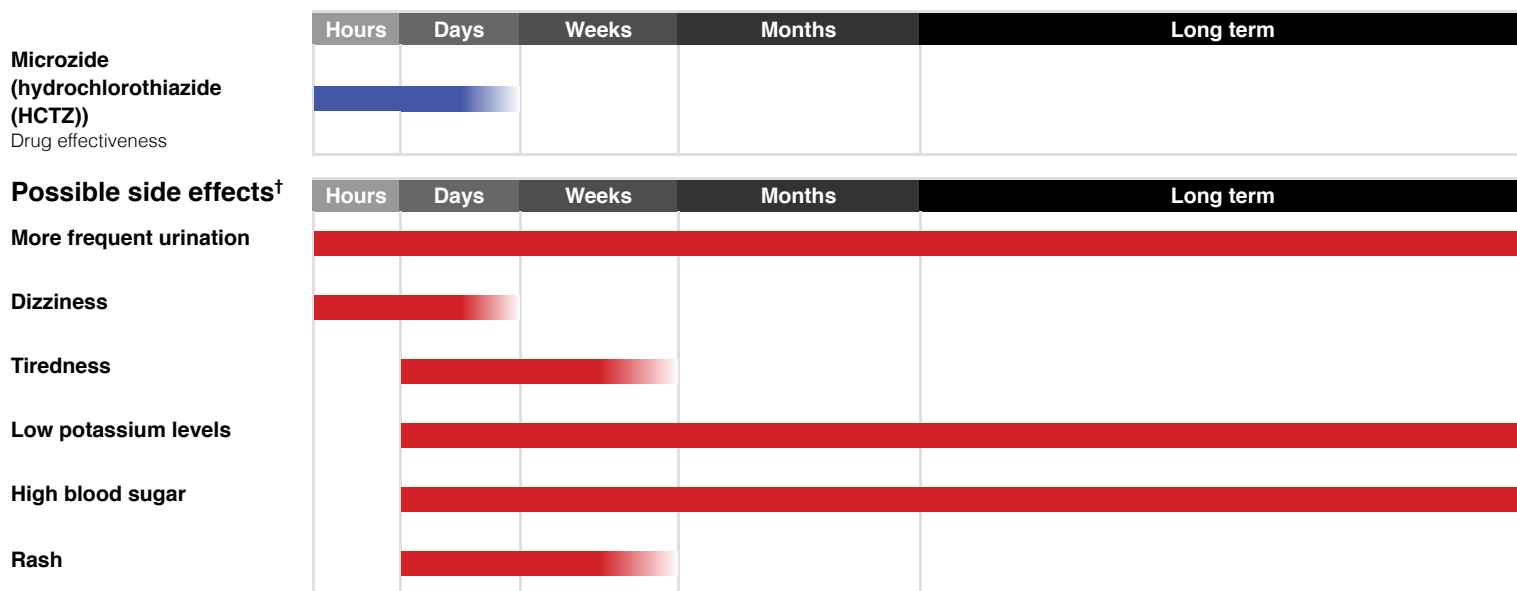


Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)) basics

Removes water from the body, which lowers blood pressure. Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)) is a well-tolerated water pill that's often the first-choice treatment for mild high blood pressure.

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

- Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)) starts working in about 2 hours.
- It makes you urinate more often, so don't take it at bedtime.
- Can cause dizziness in the first few days.
- Check your blood pressure 1 week after starting this medicine, and tell your doctor if it hasn't improved.
- Tell your doctor about any tiredness or muscle weakness that doesn't go away.
- Requires routine blood tests to check kidney function.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Dehydration and electrolyte imbalance

Taking too much Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)) can cause excessive urine production, which leads to dehydration and low levels of sodium, potassium, or magnesium. This can affect your heart and other muscles. Any current fluid or electrolyte imbalances should be corrected before using Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)). Make sure to stay hydrated while you're taking Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)).

Severe allergic reactions

There is a possibility that patients with allergies to other sulfa-containing medicines can experience similar allergic reactions (severe rash, trouble breathing) with Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)). Let your doctor know if you have any drug allergies, and what happened when you took those drugs.

Gout

Microzide (hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ)) can increase uric acid levels and cause or worsen gout. Uric acid levels may need to be monitored if you have gout.