

# Toradol (ketorolac) basics

**Treats pain and inflammation.** Toradol (ketorolac) is a relatively strong NSAID and is a non-opioid medicine that relieves moderate to severe short term pain. However, it can increase your risk of bleeding so it should be used for the shortest time possible.

## 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
<b>Toradol (ketorolac)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar from 0 to 2 days]				
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Nausea/vomiting</b>	[Red bar from 0 to 1 day]				
<b>Headache</b>	[Red bar from 0 to 1 day]				
<b>Stomach pain/indigestion</b>	[Red bar from 0 to 1 day]				
<b>Gastrointestinal bleeding</b>	[Red bar from 0 to 2 days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take pills with food or milk to avoid stomach upset.
- You should only take Toradol (ketorolac) pills if you've already gotten it as an injection or nasal spray.
- Don't use Toradol (ketorolac) for a total of more than 5 days. This includes all forms of the medicine. The exception is Toradol (ketorolac) eyedrops.
- Prime the nasal spray before using it each day by spraying it five times into the air. Make sure you don't breathe in the spray: hold your breath and spray it once into the nostril. Then, breathe it out of your mouth and hold your nose if the solution starts dripping.
- If you are using the eye drops, take out your contacts before and wait 10 minutes before putting them back in. You can use Toradol (ketorolac) with other eyedrops, but wait 5 minutes between them. You should have different bottles of Toradol (ketorolac) for each eye that you got surgery on.

## 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.

### Heart attack or stroke

Toradol (ketorolac) can increase your chance of having blood clots, heart attack, or stroke. Take the lowest dose for the shortest time possible to lower your risk. Never take Toradol (ketorolac) or other NSAIDs during the first two weeks after having cardiac bypass surgery.

### Stomach bleeding

Toradol (ketorolac) can cause serious stomach and intestinal problems like ulcers and bleeding. It shouldn't be used in patients with active ulcers and recent gastrointestinal bleeding as well as people with a history of these conditions. Let your doctor know if you have bloody or tarry stools or throw up blood.

### Kidney damage

Toradol (ketorolac) and other NSAIDs can cause kidney damage. It shouldn't be used in patients who already have severe kidney problems.