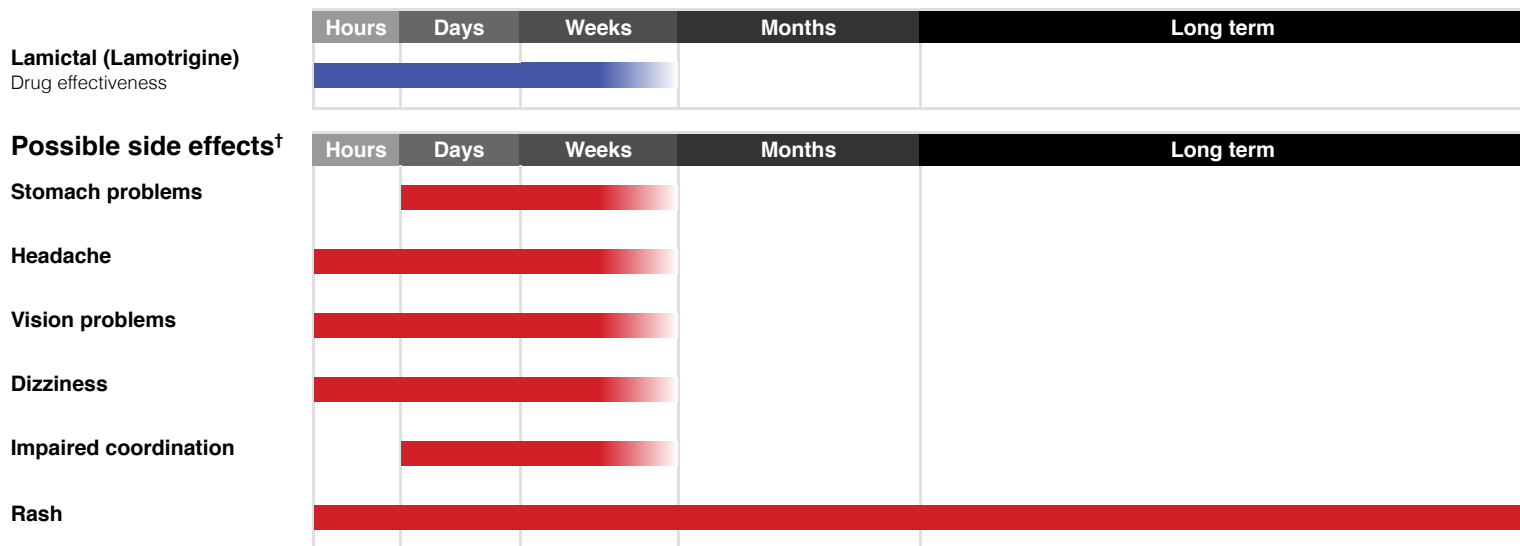


# Lamictal (Lamotrigine) basics

**Prevents seizures and stabilizes mood.** Lamictal (Lamotrigine) is most useful for treating severe seizure disorders, and for bipolar disorder with more depression symptoms than manic symptoms. Just be careful to increase your dose slowly to avoid skin rash.

## 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

- Follow dose adjustments set by your doctor to minimize skin rash.
- Take with food to avoid upset stomach.
- Report rash, blurry vision, fever, persistent headache, or neck stiffness to your doctor.
- Makes hormonal birth control less effective.
- Takes 4 to 6 weeks to feel full effects on mood.

## 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.

### Serious skin rash

Rarely, Lamictal (Lamotrigine) can cause a serious or life-threatening skin rash. The risk is higher for people who are also taking Depakote. Report any skin rashes to a doctor immediately.

### Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Lamictal (Lamotrigine) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when the dose changes. Report anything concerning to a doctor immediately.

### Serious allergic reactions

Rarely, Lamictal (Lamotrigine) can cause serious allergic reactions and life-threatening organ failure. Report any skin rash, fever, swelling, or trouble breathing to a doctor immediately.