

Lithobid (Lithium) basics

Stabilizes mood. Lithobid (Lithium) is the most effective long-term treatment for bipolar disorder, but it comes with a lot of side effects, so it can be difficult to take.

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

- For the first week, avoid activities that require you to be alert.
- Don't use if pregnant.
- Requires routine blood tests.
- Take with food or use extended release form to avoid stomach upset.
- Stay well-hydrated, and keep salt intake consistent.
- Persistent stomach upset, slurred speech, or extreme drowsiness may be a sign that your dose is too high.

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.

Overdose

The amount of Lithobid (Lithium) that's too much for your body to handle is only a little higher than the amount in an effective dose. This means it can be easy to accidentally overdose. Symptoms of Lithobid (Lithium) toxicity include diarrhea, vomiting, drowsiness, abnormal eye movements, muscle weakness, and lack of coordination. In severe cases, overdose can cause coma or seizures. If you think you've taken too much Lithobid (Lithium), stop taking it and seek medical attention immediately.

Pregnancy

Lithobid (Lithium) may cause birth defects. Don't use it while pregnant. If you're considering having a baby, talk to your doctor about alternative medications.

Driving impairment

Lithobid (Lithium) impairs your ability to focus, think, and react. Be careful. Avoid activities that require you to be alert, such as driving a car or operating machinery, until you know how this medication affects you.