

Maxalt (rizatriptan) basics

Treats migraine headaches. Triptans are first-choice for migraines. Maxalt (rizatriptan) works just as well as other triptans, but is available as a fast dissolving tablet, if you have trouble swallowing during a migraine attack.

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
Maxalt (rizatriptan) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Heart attack and stroke					
Medication overuse headache					
Serotonin syndrome					
Increased blood pressure					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Doesn't prevent migraines.
- Use as soon as you feel a migraine starting. You can take another dose 2 hours later, but make sure you don't take more than 30 mg over 24 hours.
- Avoid using too much since it can cause you to have more headaches. Talk to your doctor if you have more than 4 migraines in a month.
- Maxalt (rizatriptan) can make you dizzy or sleepy. Don't drive or do anything that requires concentration until you know how your body reacts to it.
- Maxalt (rizatriptan) can cause nausea or tightness in the chest or throat. Talk to your doctor if it bothers you.
- The orally disintegrating tablet should dissolve easily on your tongue.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Heart attack

People who have heart disease or chest pain shouldn't take Maxalt (rizatriptan) because it can increase the risk for heart attacks even more. Heart attack can feel like pain in the chest, jaw, neck or throat. Talk to your doctor first to see if you can take Maxalt (rizatriptan).

Stroke

Don't take Maxalt (rizatriptan) if you've had a stroke before. Symptoms of a stroke can be similar to a migraine, so talk to your doctor, especially if you've never had a migraine.

Medication overuse headache

Taking Maxalt (rizatriptan) for more than 10 days a month can make your migraines worse. Talk to your doctor if you find it's not working for you.