

# Megace (megestrol) basics

**Treats appetite and weight loss in people with AIDS, and pain in people with cancer.** Megace (megestrol) is good for treating appetite and weight loss in people with advanced cancer or AIDS, without causing the side effects of steroids.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



\* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- You might have to take Megace (megestrol) for 2 months before you notice any changes in your appetite.
- Store the liquid version of Megace (megestrol) in your pantry away from light and heat.
- Shake the liquid version of Megace (megestrol) well before you take it.
- Your doctor might do blood tests to check your hormones and blood sugar while you're taking Megace (megestrol).

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Birth defects

If you're pregnant, don't take Megace (megestrol) because it can harm your fetus. Use birth control while you're taking Megace (megestrol) to prevent an unwanted pregnancy from happening. Talk to your doctor if this is a problem.

### High blood sugar/hormone levels

People who take Megace (megestrol) have had higher blood sugar, or changes in their hormones. If you have diabetes, you might notice your blood sugar levels going up. Talk to your doctor to see if they want you to do regular blood tests, or change the medicines you use to treat your diabetes.

### Lack of hormones

Don't stop taking Megace (megestrol) suddenly without talking to your doctor since it can be very dangerous or life-threatening. You will need to lower your dose slowly. Symptoms if you stop suddenly can include low blood pressure, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, or weakness.