

Micardis (telmisartan) basics

Lowers blood pressure. Micardis (telmisartan) is a good blood pressure-lowering medicine that protects your kidneys and has few side effects.

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
Micardis (telmisartan) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Dizziness					
Kidney problems					
High potassium levels					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Micardis (telmisartan) can make you feel a little dizzy for the first few days.
- You'll need to have blood tests done regularly since Micardis (telmisartan) can affect your kidneys and potassium levels.
- Don't eat a lot of foods that are high in potassium or use salt substitutes that contain potassium.
- Tell your doctor about any dizziness or muscle weakness that doesn't go away after the first few days.
- Don't take Micardis (telmisartan) if you're pregnant.

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.

Harm to fetus

Micardis (telmisartan) can cause birth defects. If you become pregnant, stop taking Micardis (telmisartan) right away and talk to your doctor.

Worsening kidney problems

Micardis (telmisartan) can change the way your kidneys work. It's important to get blood tests done before you start Micardis (telmisartan) to check how your kidneys are working and at least annually after.

Swelling of face and head

Angioedema, or swelling in the face, lips, tongue, throat, or other organs, can happen at any time while you're taking Micardis (telmisartan). This is more likely to happen if you are of African descent. Talk to a doctor or pharmacist if you have any head or neck swelling or abdominal pain that doesn't go away.