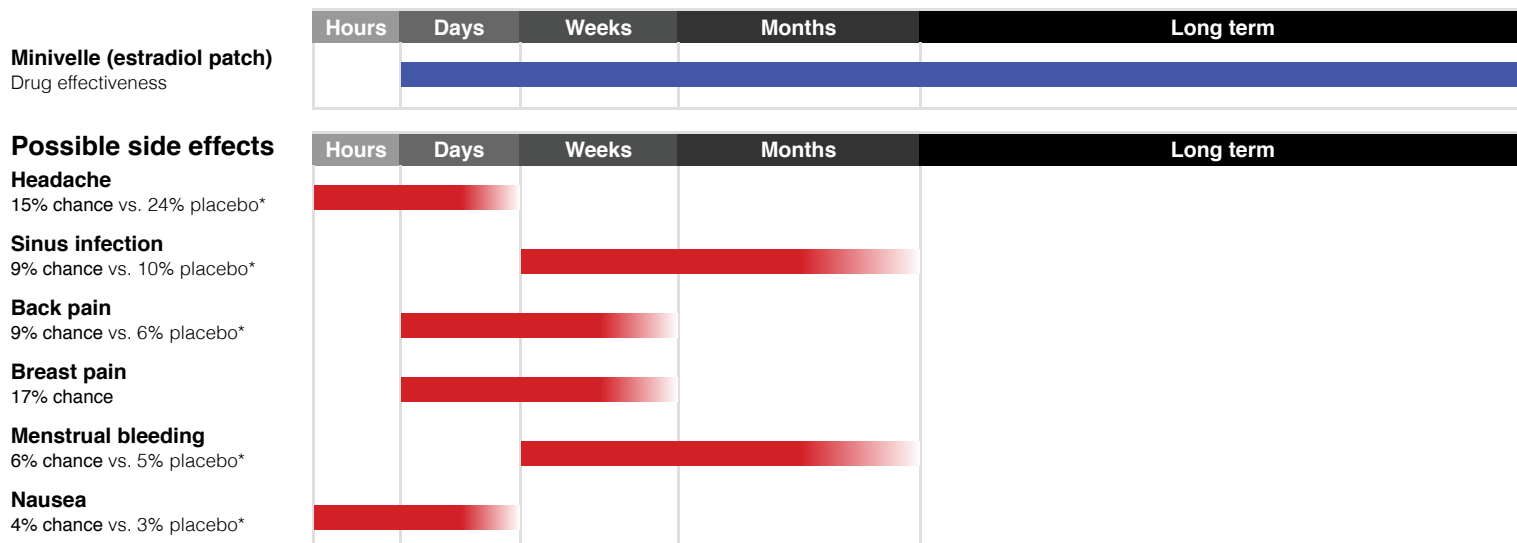


Minivelle (estradiol patch) basics

Relieves menopause symptoms. The Minivelle (estradiol patch) is the mini-me of estrogen patches. It's used twice a week, available in five strengths, and has the least amount of skin irritation.

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.

Tips from pharmacists

- Remove the patch by tearing the package by hand and not with scissors. Never cut the patch.
- Apply the sticky side of the patch to clean, dry, hairless skin below your belly button on areas as instructed by the manufacturer (never on your breast).
- Replace the patch twice a week (every 3-4 days) on a different area of the skin to lower the risk of skin irritation.
- Fold together the sticky sides of used patches before throwing them away to prevent exposing others to the medicine. Don't flush them down the toilet.
- Can cause nausea, dizziness, bloating, and breast tenderness.
- Tell your doctor about any unusual vaginal bleeding.

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.

Endometrial cancer

Vaginal bleeding after menopause can be a warning sign of uterus (endometrial) cancer, so let your doctor know if you notice any unusual bleeding. Using medicines like Minivelle (estradiol patch) for more than a year can increase your risk. Talk to your doctor about other medicines you can take with Minivelle (estradiol patch) to protect yourself from cancer if you are worried.

Breast cancer

Minivelle (estradiol patch) might make you more likely to have breast cancer. You're at greater risk if you or your family have had breast cancer before or if you've used Minivelle (estradiol patch) or similar medicines for a year. Talk to your doctor about ways to protect yourself.

Increased risk of blood clots and stroke

Minivelle (estradiol patch) can raise your risk of blood clots, which can be very dangerous. You're more likely to have them if you smoke tobacco, are obese, or if you or your family have ever had blood clots. Get medical care right away if you have pain in your legs or arms, bad headaches, trouble breathing, or sudden changes in your speech or vision.