

Mirapex (pramipexole) basics

Helps with movement problems. Mirapex (pramipexole) is effective for Parkinson's disease or restless legs syndrome, but can cause extreme drowsiness that affects daily living.

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
Mirapex (pramipexole) Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Possible side effects					
Hallucinations 17% chance vs. 4% placebo*		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Dizziness 26% chance vs. 25% placebo*	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Sleepiness 9% chance vs. 6% placebo*		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Insomnia 27% chance vs. 22% placebo*		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			
Dream abnormalities 11% chance vs. 100% placebo*	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Muscle rigidity 47% chance vs. 31% placebo*		[Red bar spanning Days and Weeks]			

* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Mirapex (pramipexole) should be started at a low dose to help avoid side effects such as drowsiness and low blood pressure. Taking Mirapex (pramipexole) extended-release tablets can also help reduce these side effects.
- Mirapex (pramipexole) can cause extreme drowsiness. Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- Take Mirapex (pramipexole) 2 to 3 hours before bedtime for restless legs syndrome.
- Take Mirapex (pramipexole) with food if it makes you feel nauseous.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medication.
- If you are considering stopping Mirapex (pramipexole) after long-term use, speak with your doctor, as you will require special directions to avoid serious withdrawal symptoms.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Impulse control problems

Mirapex (pramipexole) can cause intense urges and compulsive behaviors that are hard to control, such as binge eating, gambling, spending money, and sexual urges. Talk to your doctor right away if you have any of these feelings.

Problems with concentration

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

Low blood pressure

Dizziness can occur due to a sudden drop in blood pressure, especially when you change positions, such as going from sitting to standing. This is called orthostatic hypotension and is an early side effect of Mirapex (pramipexole). Typically, the dizziness will go away over time as your body gets used to the medication. If this happens frequently, change positions slowly.

