

Aleve (naproxen) basics

Relieves pain, fever, and inflammation. Aleve (naproxen) works well for treating mild to moderate pain or inflammation, and lasts longer than other NSAIDs.

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 |
|---|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Aleve (naproxen) Drug effectiveness | | | | | |
| Possible side effects† | Hours | Days | Weeks | Months | Long term |
| Stomach pain | | | | | |
| Itching | | | | | |
| Skin rash | | | | | |
| Heartburn | | | | | |
| Abnormal accumulation of water in body | | | | | |
| Headache | | | | | |

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Starts working in about 30 to 60 minutes.
- Take it with food or milk to prevent stomach upset.
- Talk to your doctor before continued use if your pain gets worse or lasts more than 10 days or your fever gets worse or lasts more than 3 days.
- Aleve (naproxen) increases the risk of stomach bleeding so tell your doctor right away if you experience any symptoms such as stomach pain, dark-colored stools, or blood in your stool or vomit.
- If you are allergic to aspirin, there is a chance you may be allergic to Aleve (naproxen) as well.
- When using the delayed-release or extended-release pills, do not crush, chew or break them; swallow them whole.

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.

Heart attack and stroke

Aleve (naproxen) can increase your chances of getting blood clots, heart attack, or stroke. To lower your risk, take it at the lowest dose and for the shortest time possible. Go to the emergency room right away if you experience chest pain, breathing problems, weakness in one side of the body, or difficulty speaking.

Stomach bleeding

Aleve (naproxen) can cause stomach bleeding which can be dangerous. If you're coughing up blood, have bloody or tarry stools, or if you have stomach pain that doesn't go away, talk to your doctor right away.

Severe allergic reaction

It's rare but Aleve (naproxen) can cause a severe and dangerous allergic reaction. Symptoms include skin rash, hives, face swelling, and trouble breathing. Go to the emergency room right away if you have these symptoms. If you have experienced these issues before with aspirin or another NSAID, talk to your doctor before taking Aleve (naproxen).