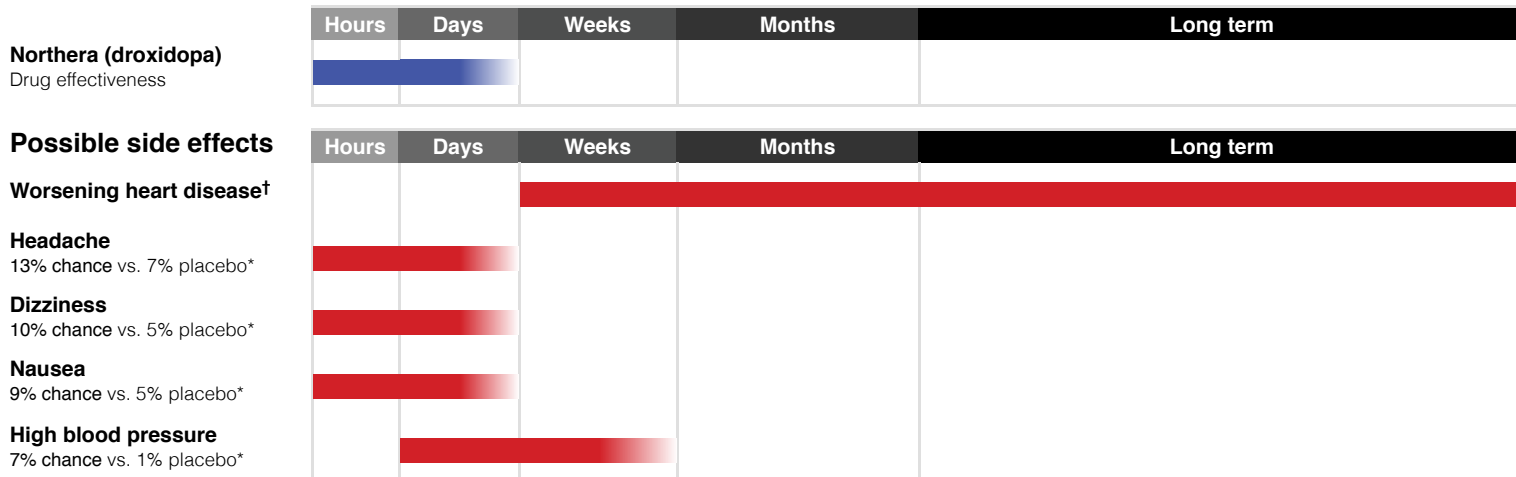


Northera (droxidopa) basics

Maintains your blood pressure. Northera (droxidopa) is the only medicine available to keep your blood pressure normal if you have Parkinson's disease. However, you have to see your doctor regularly, and it can be very expensive.

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

- Take your evening dose of Northera (droxidopa) at least 3 hours before going to bed to prevent high blood pressure.
- Northera (droxidopa) is only good for 2 weeks at a time. Your doctor will talk to you to see if you should keep taking it.
- If you miss your regular dose of Northera (droxidopa), skip it and take it at the next scheduled time. Don't take 2 doses at the same time.
- Take Northera (droxidopa) exactly how your doctor and pharmacist tell you to. It's best to space it out every 8 hours.

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.

Higher blood pressure while lying down

Your blood pressure can get very high while taking Northera (droxidopa), especially while lying down. You should measure your blood pressure more frequently when you're first starting it or changing doses. You should also sleep with your upper body elevated.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

Medications like Northera (droxidopa) can cause neuroleptic malignant syndrome, which is rare but life-threatening. Symptoms include a very high fever, sweating, stiff muscles, and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Call your doctor or 911 right away.

Worsening heart disease

Talk to your doctor if you've had heart problems such as heart failure, a heart attack, or problems with your heartbeat. Northera (droxidopa) can make these problems worse.