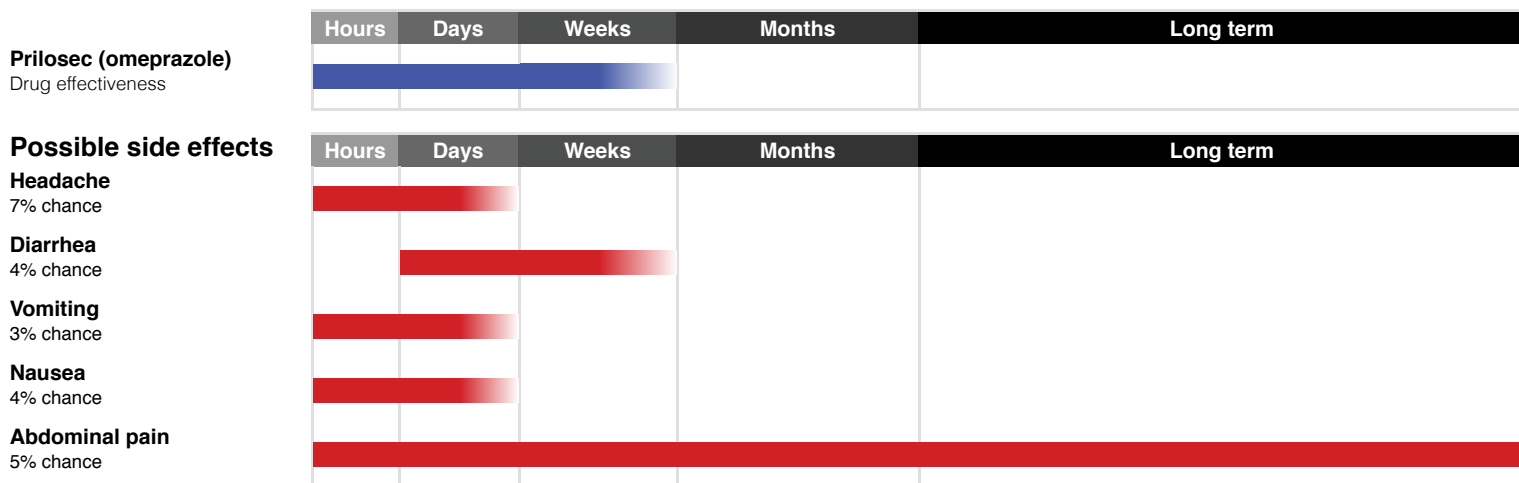


Prilosec (omeprazole) basics

Treats heartburn and excess release of stomach acid. Prilosec (omeprazole) gives you long-lasting heartburn relief but has some risks if used long term.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



Tips from pharmacists

- Take 1 hour before a meal.
- Don't chew or crush capsules; swallow them whole.
- If you have trouble swallowing you can carefully open the capsules and sprinkle the inside pellets onto applesauce. Swallow the applesauce without chewing or crushing the pellets.
- If using Prilosec (omeprazole) long-term, take a calcium and vitamin D supplement daily to prevent bone loss.
- Avoid drug interactions by telling your doctor all of the other medications or herbal supplements you take before starting Prilosec (omeprazole).
- Talk to your doctor if you find yourself using over-the-counter Prilosec (omeprazole) for more than 14 days. Your doctor can help decide if Prilosec (omeprazole) is the best option for you, and see if there is any underlying cause for your heartburn.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Risk of cancer

People taking Prilosec (omeprazole) for long-term use have developed certain types of cancers. The actual relationship between Prilosec (omeprazole) and cancer development is still uncertain. To be safe, use Prilosec (omeprazole) at the lowest dose and for the shortest amount of time possible.

Lupus

Prilosec (omeprazole) can cause or worsen a rare condition in which the body's own immune system (designed to protect the body) attacks the body. This can lead to inflammation and damage to various parts of the body. Symptoms of lupus can be different for everyone so speak to your doctor about what symptoms to watch out for. Symptoms of lupus should improve within 4 to 12 weeks of stopping Prilosec (omeprazole).

Severe diarrhea associated with C.difficile infection

Prilosec (omeprazole) can cause a bacterial infection that can be life-threatening, though this is rare. If you notice symptoms like watery diarrhea, fever, or stomach pain that does not go away, talk to your doctor right away. To lower your risk, use Prilosec (omeprazole) at the lowest dose and for the shortest amount of time possible.