

# Serax (oxazepam) basics

**Controls anxiety symptoms and alcohol withdrawal.** Serax (oxazepam) helps make sure the seizures that happen during alcohol withdrawal don't get worse. Serax (oxazepam) is also good for short-term relief of anxiety symptoms.

## 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
<b>Serax (oxazepam)</b> Drug effectiveness					
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Dependence and addiction</b>					
<b>Breathing problems</b>					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Take Serax (oxazepam) exactly as your doctor tells you.
- If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember; unless it's been more than 1 hour, then skip that dose and take Serax (oxazepam) at the next scheduled time. Don't take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.
- Don't drive or do anything requiring concentration until you know how Serax (oxazepam) affects you since it can make you sleepy. Drinking alcohol can make the sleepiness worse.
- Serax (oxazepam) for anxiety is only good for 4 months. Talk to your doctor if you're still having anxiety and Serax (oxazepam) hasn't helped.

## 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.

### Breathing problems, coma, and death

Taking Serax (oxazepam) with opioids can slow your breathing down, which can lead to coma or death. Talk to your doctor if you're taking opioids for pain relief, since they'll have to adjust how you take them so that it's safe while you're on Serax (oxazepam).

### Withdrawal symptoms

If you've been taking Serax (oxazepam) for a while and want to stop taking it, talk to your doctor, since stopping it suddenly can be very dangerous. Your doctor will tell you how to stop taking it gradually so this won't happen.

### Low blood pressure

While rare, Serax (oxazepam) can cause low blood pressure. This can be dangerous if you're older or if you're on medicines for high blood pressure since you can be more likely to fall or faint. Be very careful getting up if you've been sitting or lying down for a long period of time.