

Pamelor (nortriptyline) basics

Improves mood. Pamelor (nortriptyline) is a good option for treating depression, especially for people who also have problems with persistent nerve pain, but may take 6 to 8 weeks to feel the full effects on your mood.

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
Pamelor (nortriptyline) Drug effectiveness			[Blue bar spanning Weeks and Months]		
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Constipation		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, Months]			
Blurred vision		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, Months]			
Difficulty urinating		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, Months]			
Low blood pressure		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks]			
Dry mouth		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, Months]			
Anxiety		[Red bar spanning Hours, Days]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Needs to be taken every day for 1 to 2 weeks before you will start feeling better, and for 6 to 8 weeks to see the full effect of the medication.
- It's important to keep taking Pamelor (nortriptyline) even when you feel your symptoms are getting better.
- Take it with food and/or at bedtime to decrease the potential side effects.
- Tell your doctor if you notice sudden mood changes or unusual thoughts.
- If you have been taking Pamelor (nortriptyline) for at least a few weeks, stopping suddenly can cause uncomfortable withdrawal symptoms. Don't stop suddenly without your doctor's advice.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medication.

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.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Pamelor (nortriptyline) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when the dose changes. Report anything concerning to a doctor right away. Pamelor (nortriptyline) is not approved for use in children.

Dizziness and falls

Pamelor (nortriptyline) can cause sudden drops in blood pressure, especially when you change positions, such as going from sitting to standing. If you're sensitive to low blood pressure, change position slowly until your body is used to the medicine. Be careful since you can feel dizzy or fall. If symptoms continues for more than a week, you may need to change the dose or medicine.

Eye problems

Pamelor (nortriptyline) can cause your pupils to dilate, which in some people with an underlying eye condition, can lead to eye pain, swelling or redness, changes in vision, and worsening glaucoma. Your doctor may want you to have an eye exam to see if you have a higher chance of these eye problems. Let your doctor know if you have any eye problems before taking Pamelor (nortriptyline).