

Prevacid (lansoprazole) basics

Treats heartburn and stomach ulcers. Prevacid (lansoprazole) is an effective and inexpensive acid reducer commonly used to provide heartburn relief and help heal ulcers.

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
Prevacid (lansoprazole) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Diarrhea					
Abdominal pain					
Nausea					
Constipation					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Prevacid (lansoprazole) with a full glass of water before eating.
- Starts working in 1 to 3 hours. It can take 1 to 4 days to take full effect.
- Some prescription drugs can interact with Prevacid (lansoprazole), so talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the medicines you are taking.
- Do not take for more than 14 days, unless directed by your doctor. Speak to your doctor if your symptoms don't go away after 2 weeks.
- Prevacid (lansoprazole) capsules can be opened and sprinkled on 1 tablespoon of applesauce, cottage cheese, or yogurt. Swallow immediately after. The dissolving tablets shouldn't be swallowed, broken, or chewed.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Stomach cancer

Heartburn and feelings of upset stomach can be warning signs of a more serious stomach problem or cancer. If your symptoms do not go away or worsens after two weeks, or symptoms return after completing a course of treatment with Prevacid (lansoprazole), speak to your doctor as this may indicate a more serious problem.

Acute kidney damage

Prevacid (lansoprazole) can cause acute kidney damage that can occur at any time during treatment. Stop taking Prevacid (lansoprazole) and speak to your doctor immediately if you notice blood in the urine, changes in urine output, swelling of the body, weight gain, fever, or confusion.

Clostridium difficile associated diarrhea (CDAD)

Prevacid (lansoprazole) may raise your risk of getting an infection by a bacteria called Clostridium difficile. If you experience frequent diarrhea, abdominal pain, fevers, and loss of appetite, speak to your doctor right away. Your doctor may need to switch you to a different medication and treat the infection.