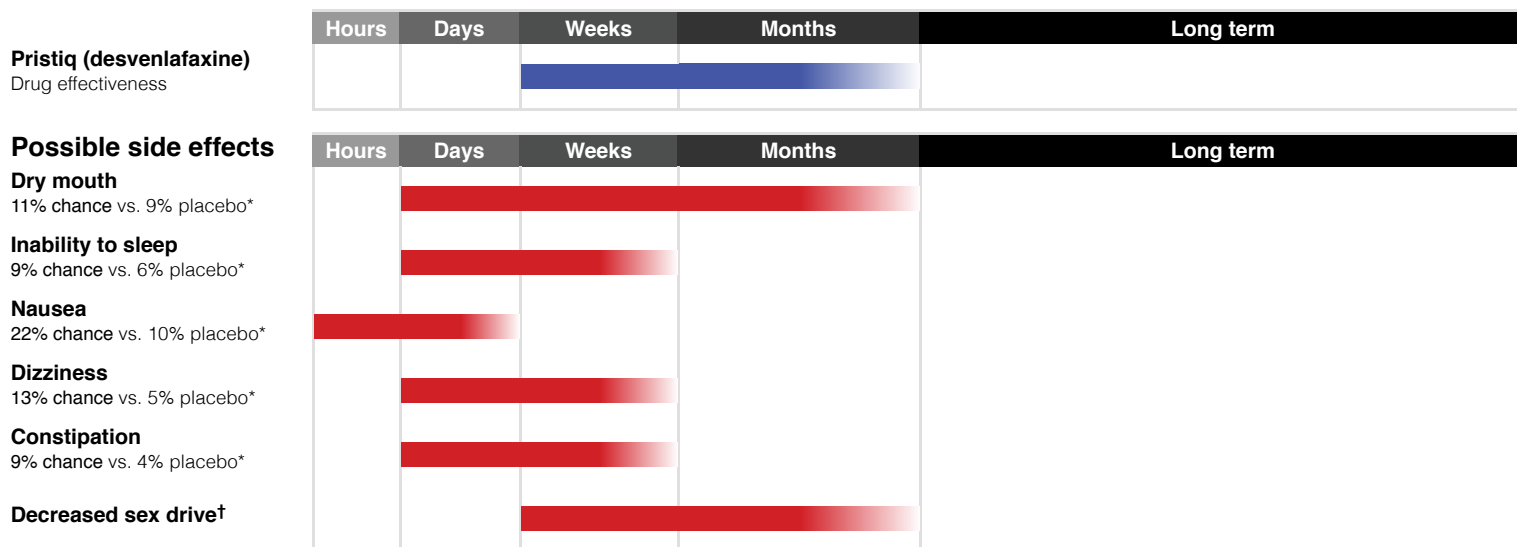


Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) basics

Improves mood. Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) is an effective medicine for treating depression, but it is more expensive than many other medicines that work just like it.

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

- Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) may take up to 8 to 12 weeks to fully affect your mood. Be patient and do not stop taking it without talking to your doctor.
- Stopping Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) suddenly may cause withdrawal symptoms. Talk to your doctor before stopping this medication.
- Tell your doctor right away if you notice mood changes or develop thoughts of hurting yourself.
- Swallow the medicine whole and don't break, chew, or crush it.
- You might see an empty shell in your stool that was originally a part of the pill. This is perfectly normal.
- Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) may negatively affect your concentration and reaction time. Do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how this medication will affect you.

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

Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior in people 24 years old or younger. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when your dose changes. Talk to a doctor right away if you experience anxiety, irritability, or any other unusual behaviors.

Serotonin syndrome

Serotonin syndrome is a rare but potentially life-threatening condition caused by increased serotonin levels in the brain. You are more likely to experience this if you're also on other medicines that affect your serotonin levels. Go to the emergency room right away if you experience fast heart rate, shivering, and confusion. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about how to take your medicines safely.

Increased blood pressure

Pristiq (desvenlafaxine) can increase your blood pressure. Monitor your blood pressure regularly. If your blood pressure stays abnormally high for a long time, your doctor might decrease your dose or have you stop taking the medicine.