

Pyridium (phenazopyridine) basics

Relieves urinary pain, burning, urgency, and frequency. Pyridium (phenazopyridine) is effective for relieving urinary tract pain and discomfort, but it is not used for treating infections.

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
Pyridium (phenazopyridine) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Headache					
Rash					
Itch					
Upset stomach					
Severe allergic reaction					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Pyridium (phenazopyridine) with food to prevent stomach upset.
- Don't take Pyridium (phenazopyridine) for more than 2 days. You may take Pyridium (phenazopyridine) for longer than 2 days if taken with antibiotics to help with your urinary tract infection.
- Stop using Pyridium (phenazopyridine) if your skin and/or eyes turn yellowish in color. If you experience this, you should stop taking Pyridium (phenazopyridine) and talk to your doctor immediately.
- People with kidney problems should speak with their doctor before using Pyridium (phenazopyridine).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Cancer causing agent

Pyridium (phenazopyridine) is suspected of being able to cause liver cancer and other tumors based on its use in animals. Although there is not enough evidence for it causing tumors in humans, you should use this medication for the shortest period of time possible.

Yellowing of skin or eyes

Pyridium (phenazopyridine) can cause your skin or eyes to turn yellowish in color which likely means the medicine is building up in your body and your kidneys cannot get rid of it quickly enough. Talk to your doctor and stop using the medicine right away if this happens.

Color staining

Pyridium (phenazopyridine) can turn your urine into a reddish-orange color and stain your contact lenses as well. Although alarming, this is not dangerous. Wash your hands thoroughly after touching the medicine before handling your contacts.