

Relistor (methylnaltrexone) basics

Treats opioid-induced constipation. When laxatives aren't enough, Relistor (methylnaltrexone) can help treat constipation caused by opioids without affecting opioid pain relief.

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
Relistor (methylnaltrexone) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Stomach pain	[Red gradient bar]				
Passing gas	[Red gradient bar]				
Nausea	[Red gradient bar]				
Diarrhea	[Red gradient bar]				
Headache	[Red gradient bar]				
Sweating	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Relistor (methylnaltrexone) pills are used to treat opioid-induced constipation in adults with long-lasting pain that isn't caused by cancer. If you have cancer, you'll need to use the injection form of Relistor (methylnaltrexone).
- Relistor (methylnaltrexone) works within 4 hours of taking it.
- Make sure you're near a toilet after taking Relistor (methylnaltrexone).
- If you're taking the pill form of Relistor (methylnaltrexone), take it with water on an empty stomach at least 30 minutes before your first meal of the day.
- Stop taking Relistor (methylnaltrexone) if you stop taking your opioid pain medication.
- Stop taking other laxatives before you start Relistor (methylnaltrexone). You can use other laxatives if Relistor (methylnaltrexone) doesn't work after 3 days.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Hole in the bowel

Relistor (methylnaltrexone) can cause a hole in your stomach or intestines if you currently have bowel or stomach problems, such as stomach ulcer, Crohn's disease, Ogilvie's syndrome, or stomach cancer. Talk to your doctor or go to the emergency room right away if you experience worsening or severe stomach pain that won't go away, vomiting, or fever, as this can be life-threatening. Your doctor might need to switch you to a different medication.

Diarrhea

Discontinue Relistor (methylnaltrexone) and speak to your doctor right away if you experience severe diarrhea that will not stop.

Opioid withdrawal

Relistor (methylnaltrexone) can cause symptoms of opioid withdrawal such as stomach pain, anxiety, chills, diarrhea, sweating, and yawning. Let your doctor know if you experience any of these symptoms.