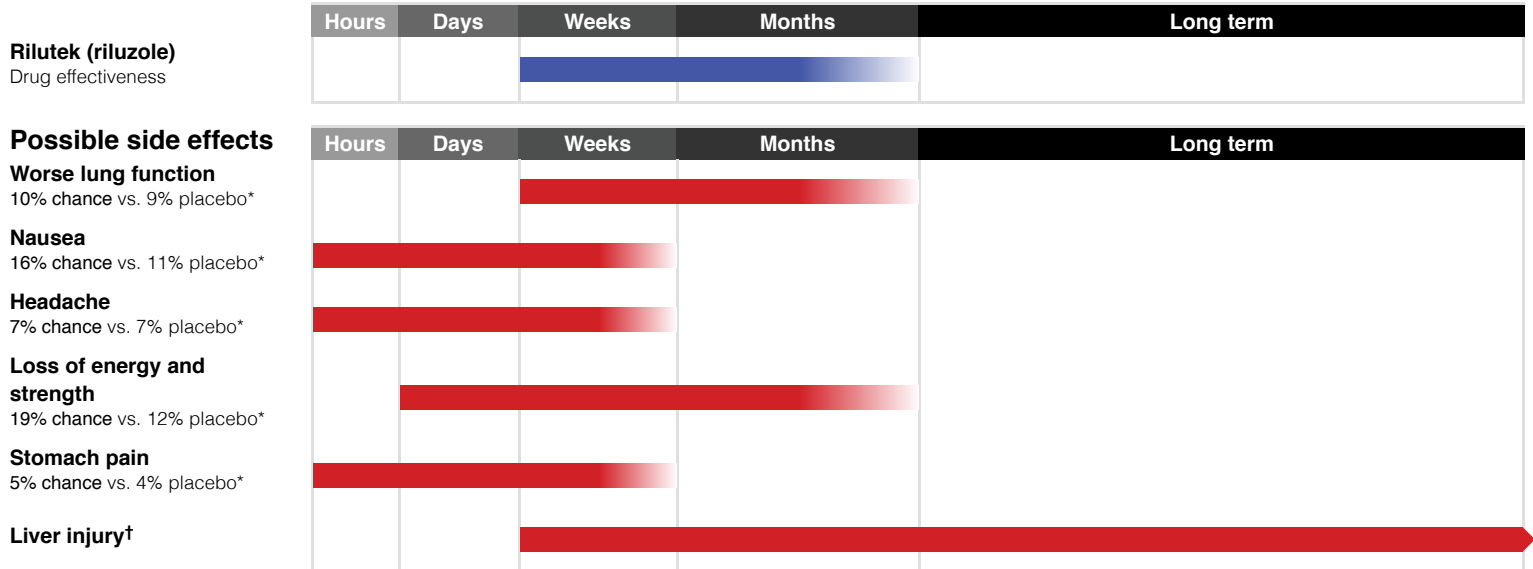


Rilutek (riluzole) basics

Slows down progression of Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS. Rilutek (riluzole) doesn't cure the symptoms of ALS, but people do live longer on the medicine.

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

- Take at least 1 hour before, or 2 hours after a meal.
- Avoid alcohol while on Rilutek (riluzole) because it can raise risk of liver problems.
- Don't smoke. It can make Rilutek (riluzole) less effective.
- Rilutek (riluzole) can make you feel very tired or sleepy. Don't drive or do anything that requires concentration until you know how it affects you.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Liver injury and damage

Rilutek (riluzole) can potentially affect the functioning of your liver, which in rare cases, lead to severe liver damage. Your doctor will do regular blood tests while you are taking this medicine to make sure your liver continues to work normally. If you notice unusual symptoms such as fever, rash, lack of appetite, stomach pain, dark urine, or yellowing of your skin or eyes, call your doctor right away.

Low white blood cell count

Rilutek (riluzole) can cause low neutrophils, which are white blood cells that fight infections. However, this is rare. Tell your doctor right away if you start having fevers, sore throat, excessive tiredness, or many infections, as these can be signs of a low white blood cell count.

Lung disease

Although very rare, Rilutek (riluzole) can cause lung disease. If you develop a dry cough or have difficulty breathing while taking Rilutek (riluzole), your lungs might be sensitive to the medicine. If this happens, talk to your doctor right away since you might need to stop Rilutek (riluzole).