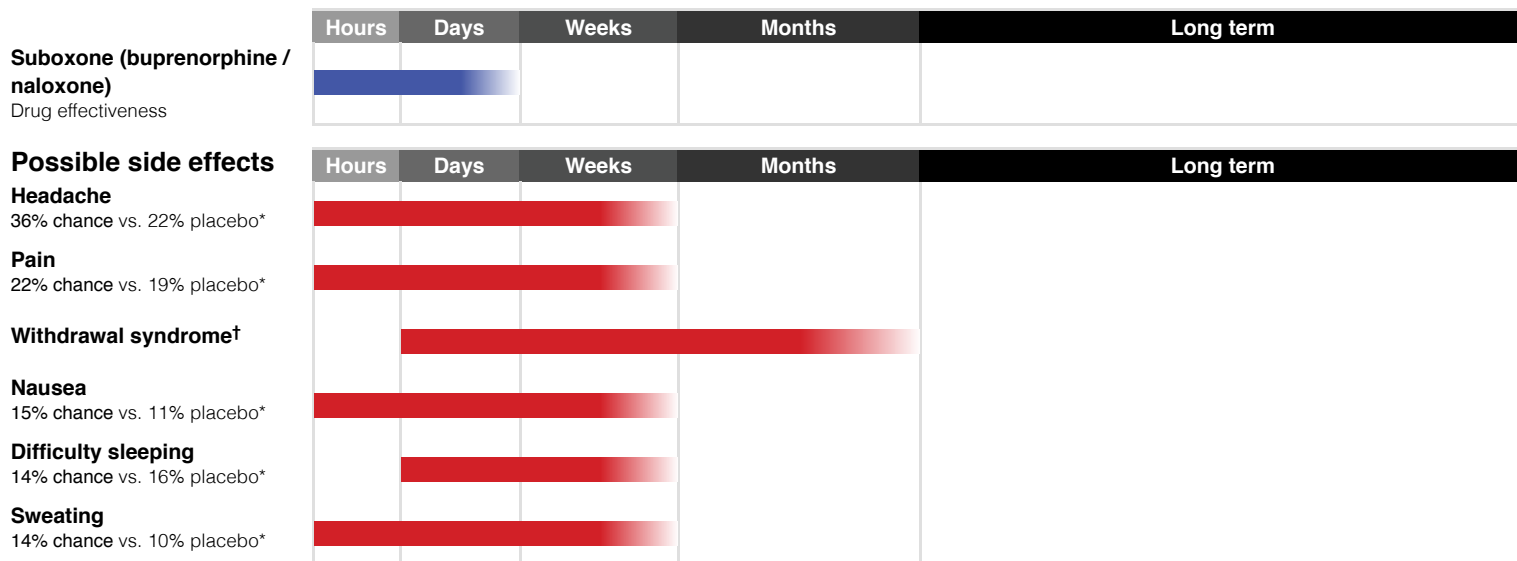


Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) basics

Treats opioid addiction. Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) works well to reduce cravings and treat opioid dependence. It's most effective if you have an addiction to heroin or short-acting opioids.

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

- Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) can make you drowsy and dizzy. Avoid activities that need you to be fully alert until you know how Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) affects you.
- Avoid taking Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) with alcohol and other sedating drugs. The combination of the two can be very dangerous.
- Drink water before putting the film under your tongue. If you're using the under the tongue film, place the film under the tongue and let it melt. If you're using 2 films, place them on opposite sides and try to not let the films touch. If you're using 3 films, place the third film under the tongue after the first 2 films have melted.
- Don't cut, chew or swallow the film.
- If you need to stop taking Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone), talk to your doctor. Your dose should be slowly lowered over a period of time in order to avoid withdrawal symptoms.
- Talk to your doctor right away if you, a friend or family member notice slow breathing, shallow breathing, or trouble breathing.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Low blood pressure

Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) can cause severe low blood pressure, fainting, and a drop in blood pressure when you change positions, called orthostatic hypotension. You might be more sensitive if you're already taking medicine to lower your blood pressure so be careful. It's important that you tell your doctor about these symptoms before changing your dose or stopping your medication.

Liver failure

People with moderate to severe liver disease should not take Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone). If you have liver disease, your doctor will likely check your liver function regularly while taking Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone).

Severe allergic reactions

Suboxone (buprenorphine / naloxone) can cause hypersensitivity reactions (severe rash, trouble breathing) and angioedema (life-threatening condition with swelling with or without hives). This is a medical emergency and you need to get medical attention immediately.

