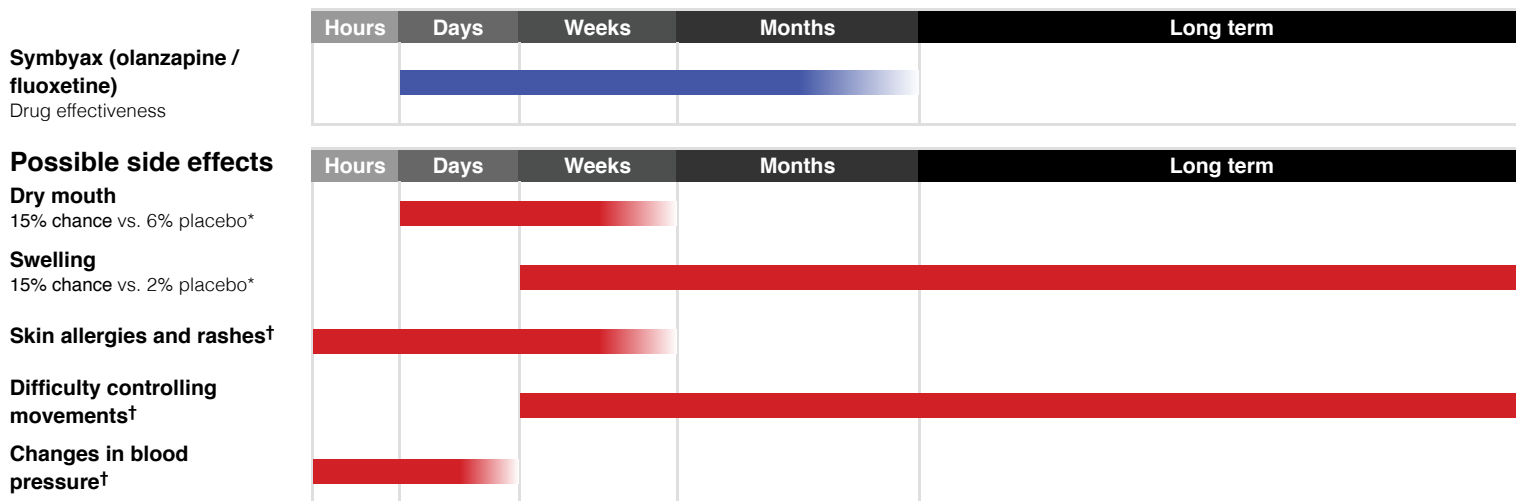


# Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) basics

**Treats depression and bipolar disorder.** Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) is recommended for people who have bipolar disorder with depression, but you're likely to have issues with weight gain and blood sugar.

## 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 Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) in the evening since it can make you feel sleepy. Be very careful the first few days driving or doing anything that requires concentration until you know how it affects you.
- If you miss a dose of Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine), take it as soon as you remember, unless it's time for your next dose. Don't take 2 doses at the same time to make up for the missed dose.
- Keep taking Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) even if you start to feel better. Don't stop Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) without talking to your doctor first since your mood might get worse.
- Drink plenty of liquids and don't exercise too hard, especially if it's hot outside since Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) can dry you out.
- You might feel dizzy the first few days you take Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) since it can lower your blood pressure. Be very careful getting up if you've been sitting or lying down for a while.

## 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.

### Higher risk of suicide

Taking Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) can make you more likely to harm yourself or commit suicide, especially if you are age 24 and younger, and during the first few weeks of taking it. Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) isn't approved for children under age 10. If your mood darkens and you want to hurt yourself or other people, call the doctor right away.

### Higher risk of death in older people with dementia

Older people who have dementia and psychosis have a higher risk of death if they take antipsychotic medicines like Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine). They shouldn't be given this medicine.

### Weight gain

Symbyax (olanzapine / fluoxetine) can cause higher weight, blood sugar, cholesterol, and triglycerides (fat), especially in children ages 10 to 17. If you or your child has diabetes, high blood pressure, or heart disease, your doctor might change your medicines and do regular blood tests. Eat healthy and exercise regularly. If you experience excessive thirst, hunger, urination, or weakness, check your blood sugar right away. Report any changes you notice to your doctor.