

Symmetrel (amantadine) basics

Treats Parkinson's disease, the flu, and side effects from antipsychotic drugs. Symmetrel (amantadine) is a generic medicine that can be used alone, or with other medicines to treat early Parkinson's disease.

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
Symmetrel (amantadine) Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects[†]					
Higher risk of suicide					
Nausea					
Dizziness					
Trouble sleeping					

[†] Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Keep taking Symmetrel (amantadine) even if you start to feel well. Stopping Symmetrel (amantadine) suddenly can make your Parkinson's worse.
- Don't drive or do anything that requires concentration until you know how Symmetrel (amantadine) affects you since it can make you feel sleepy.
- If you forget a dose of Symmetrel (amantadine), take it as soon as you remember. If it's time for your next dose, skip that dose and take your normal amount. Don't take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.
- Symmetrel (amantadine) is also used to treat the flu.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Deaths from overdosage

People have died from overdosing on Symmetrel (amantadine). This has happened with relatively small doses, and is more likely if you have kidney problems. Be very careful with how you take Symmetrel (amantadine), especially the liquid version. If you notice your heartbeat change, or you have a very bad headache, talk to your doctor right away.

Higher risk of suicide

People who take Symmetrel (amantadine) for the flu are at higher risk for suicide. Talk to your doctor right away if you notice sudden mood changes, darkening of mood, or you feel like you want to hurt yourself or other people.

Higher risk of seizures

If you've had seizures in the past or you take medicines to control seizures, talk to your doctor before taking Symmetrel (amantadine). You might be at higher risk for having seizures, and your doctor might have to do blood tests or change your medicines.