

Tapazole (methimazole) basics

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Lowers thyroid hormone levels. Tapazole (methimazole) is an effective medicine for lowering thyroid hormone levels, but it requires frequent blood tests and monitoring for serious side effects.

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
Tapazole (methimazole) Drug effectiveness		[Blue bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Skin rash	[Red bar spanning Hours, Days, Weeks, and Months]				
Hives	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Nausea	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Vomiting	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Heartburn	[Red bar spanning Hours and Days]				
Joint pain		[Red bar spanning Days, Weeks, and Months]			

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Tapazole (methimazole) is usually taken 3 times a day initially, but eventually you will just take it once a day.
- It may take a few weeks to months before you see your symptoms improve.
- Tell your doctor right away if you develop a sore throat or fever while taking Tapazole (methimazole).
- If you become pregnant or want to become pregnant while you are on this medicine, talk to your doctor before continuing to take it.
- If you experience any signs of bleeding, let your doctor know.
- Since Tapazole (methimazole) can lower your ability to fight off infections, it is not recommended for you to get live vaccines while taking this medicine.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Interactions with blood thinning medications

Tapazole (methimazole) can increase the risk of bleeding if you are also taking Coumadin. Tell your doctor right away if you experience bruising, dark stools, pink or red colored urine, or unusual bleeding from your nose or gums.

Lowered ability for fighting off infections

Tapazole (methimazole) can lower your white blood cell counts, which can be life-threatening since your body will not be able to fight off infections as easily. If you get a fever or sore throat while taking Tapazole (methimazole), tell your doctor right away.

Liver damage

Tapazole (methimazole) can cause damage to the liver. If you experience symptoms of potential liver damage such as nausea, vomiting, and stomach pain, talk to your doctor who may have you do a blood test to see how your liver is functioning.