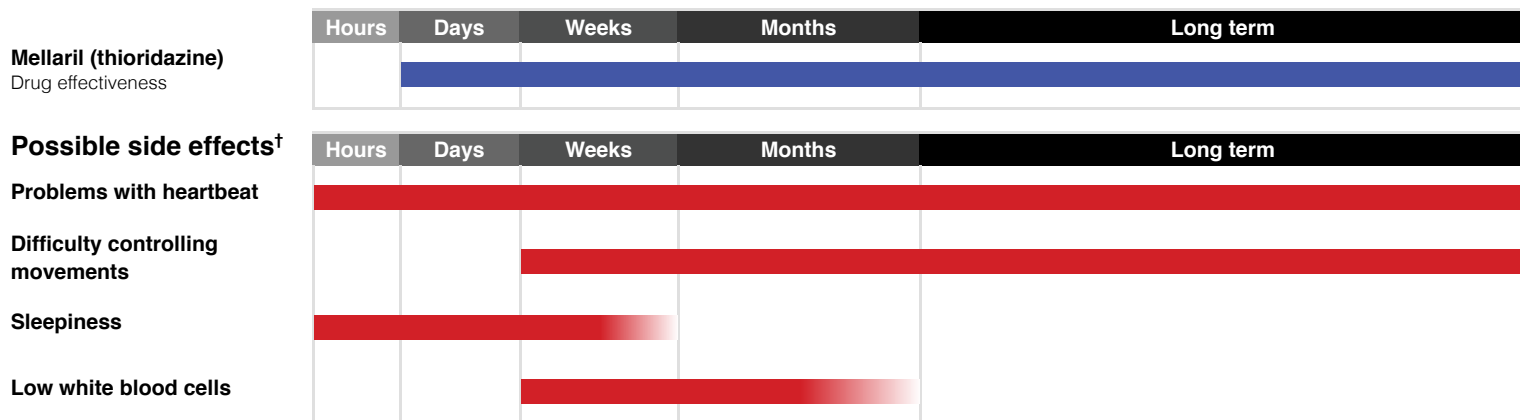


Mellaril (thioridazine) basics

Treats schizophrenia. Taking Mellaril (thioridazine) is one of many options to treat schizophrenia if other medicines haven't worked, but there are some side effects which can be dangerous.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Don't stop taking Mellaril (thioridazine) suddenly without talking to your doctor, even if you start to feel well.
- You can take Mellaril (thioridazine) with or without food. Take it with food if you get an upset stomach.
- If you've missed a dose of Mellaril (thioridazine), take it as soon as you remember. But if it's time for your next dose, just take your normal amount and don't take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.
- Don't drive or do anything requiring concentration until you know how Mellaril (thioridazine) affects you.
- Don't drink alcohol while taking Mellaril (thioridazine).

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.

Problems with the heartbeat

Rarely, Mellaril (thioridazine) can cause problems with the heartbeat that can be deadly. This is more likely to happen if you've had problems with your heartbeat before, or if you're taking certain medicines for depression or beta blockers. Your doctor will check your heart to make sure it's healthy enough before you start Mellaril (thioridazine). Go to the emergency room right away if you feel dizzy, faint or notice an irregular heartbeat. Talk to your pharmacist to make sure there aren't any interactions with your other medicines and Mellaril (thioridazine).

Increased risk of death in elderly people with dementia

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

Difficulty controlling movements

Rarely, people taking medicines like Mellaril (thioridazine) have complained of difficulty controlling how they move. This is more likely to happen the longer you take medicines like Mellaril (thioridazine). This can become permanent if it's not caught in time, and usually means changing medicines. Talk to your doctor right away if you notice your eyes twitching or lips smacking and you're not able to stop them.