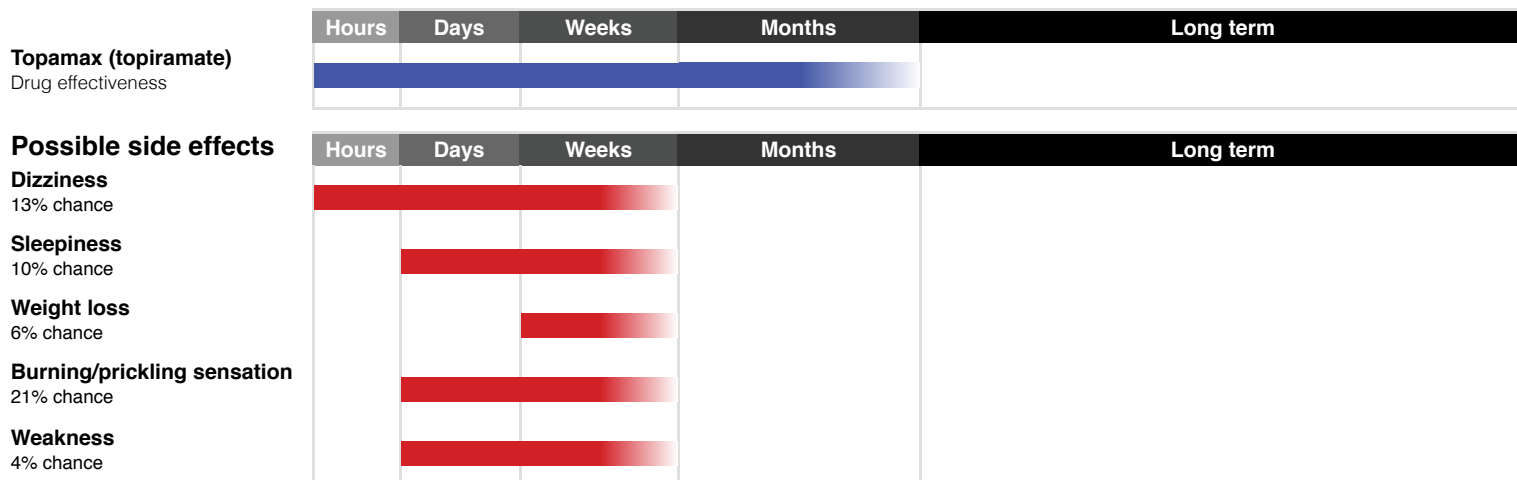


Topamax (topiramate) basics

Prevents seizures and migraine headaches. Topamax (topiramate) is very effective at preventing many types of seizures and migraines, but it can cause several severe side effects that can lead to stopping the medication.

What to expect when starting

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



Tips from pharmacists

- For the first few weeks while you adjust to the effects of Topamax (topiramate), avoid activities that require you to be alert, like driving, since Topamax (topiramate) can cause sleepiness, dizziness, and confusion.
- Topamax (topiramate) can lower the amount of vitamin D and calcium in your body, so talk with your doctor about taking supplemental vitamin D and calcium while you're taking this medication.
- Children should be watched closely while on Topamax (topiramate), since it can lower their ability to sweat and increase body temperature, especially in hot weather. Keep your child out of direct sunlight and heat, and have them drink plenty of water when going into the heat.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Topamax (topiramate) can increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during a person's first few months of treatment or when their dose changes. Be aware of changes in behavior that could indicate suicidal thoughts or depression, and report anything concerning to your doctor immediately.

Fever and inability to sweat

Topamax (topiramate) can cause high body temperatures and inability to sweat. Monitor your body temperature while you're exercising or exposed to high outdoor temperatures. Make sure you're well-hydrated, especially if you're in the heat.

Mental and cognitive changes

Topamax (topiramate) can cause an increased amount of ammonia to build up in your body, especially if it's used with Depakote (valproic acid). This can lead to an altered mental status. Topamax (topiramate) can also cause confusion, difficulty concentrating or recalling memory, word-finding difficulty, depression, or exhaustion. Tell your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms.