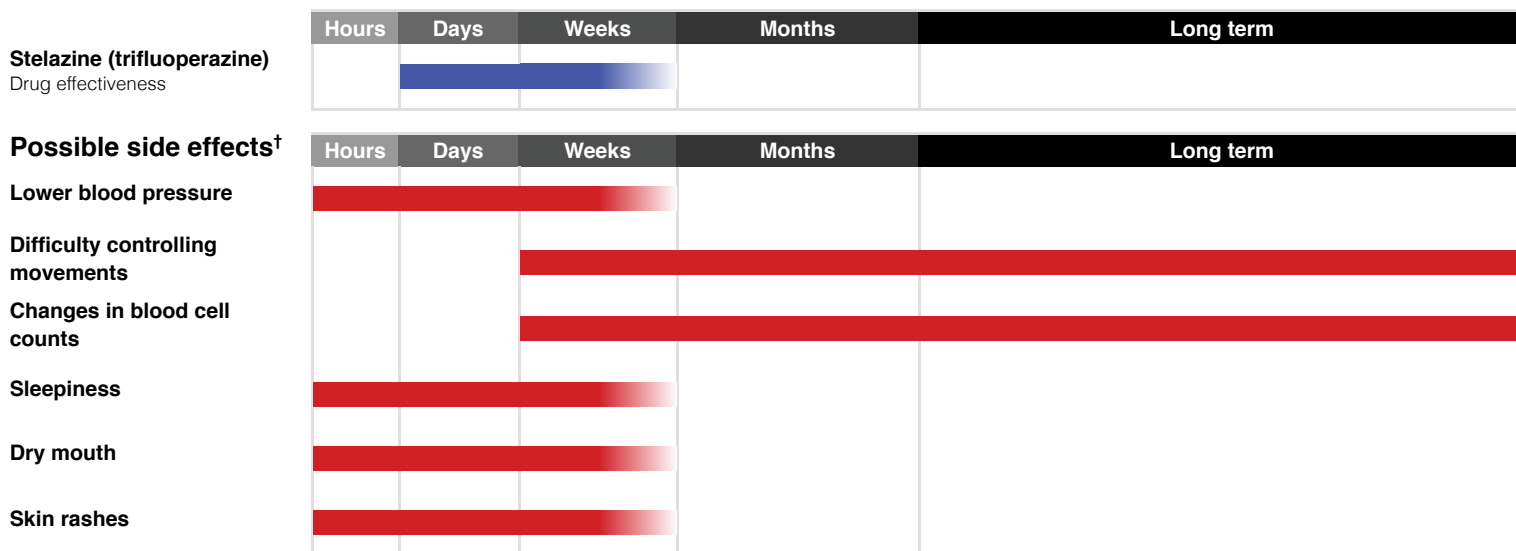


Stelazine (trifluoperazine) basics

Treats anxiety and schizophrenia. Stelazine (trifluoperazine) can be used to treat schizophrenia, but you might have trouble controlling your movements.

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

- Stelazine (trifluoperazine) can make you more sensitive to changes in temperature. If it's hot out, drink plenty of liquids, don't exercise too hard, and protect yourself from the sun. If it's cold, dress warm and don't stay outside too long.
- Stelazine (trifluoperazine) can make you feel sleepy for the first few days. Don't drive or do anything requiring concentration until you know how it affects you.
- Don't drink alcohol while taking Stelazine (trifluoperazine).
- You might feel dizzy or faint the first few days you take Stelazine (trifluoperazine). Be very careful getting up if you've been sitting or lying down for a while.
- If you want to stop taking Stelazine (trifluoperazine) and you've been taking it for at least a few months, talk to your doctor first.

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 death in people age 65 and older with dementia

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

Difficulty controlling movements

People taking medicines like Stelazine (trifluoperazine) have complained of difficulty controlling their movements. This is more likely to happen the longer you take medicines like Stelazine (trifluoperazine). This can become permanent if it's not caught in time, and can mean you need to change your medicines. Talk to your doctor right away if you notice your eyes twitching or lips smacking, and you're not able to stop them.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

Taking antipsychotic medications like Stelazine (trifluoperazine) can cause neuroleptic malignant syndrome, which is rare but life-threatening. Symptoms include a very high fever, sweating, stiff muscles, and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Call your doctor or 911 right away.