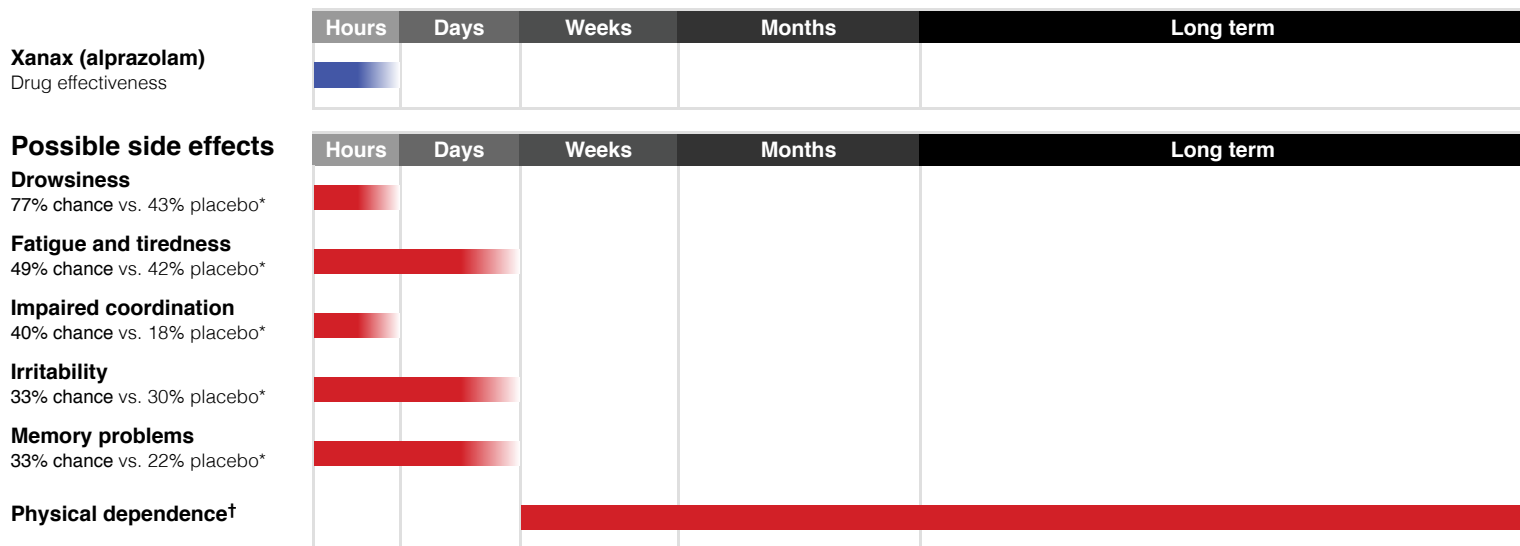


Xanax (alprazolam) basics

Helps you relax. Xanax (alprazolam) effectively treats occasional or short-term anxiety and panic attacks. Compared to similar drugs, it is more likely to cause withdrawal symptoms and can have more interactions with some medicines.

What to expect when starting

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



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Good for short-term relief of anxiety symptoms.
- Starts working in approximately 45 minutes.
- Take extended release pills once in the morning. Do not break, chew, or crush.
- Xanax (alprazolam) can cause dizziness and drowsiness. Do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how this medication affects you.
- Not safe to use with alcohol.
- Long-term use of Xanax (alprazolam) can cause dependence or abuse. Take exactly as your doctor prescribed.

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.

Decreased breathing from use with opioids

Using Xanax (alprazolam) in combination with opioids (a type of pain medicine) may cause severe drowsiness, slowed breathing, and potentially even coma or death. This combination should be avoided. If you experience excessive drowsiness or slowed breathing, notify your doctor right away and seek medical care.

Dependence and withdrawal

Xanax (alprazolam) has a risk of physical and psychological dependence. If you have been taking Xanax (alprazolam) for a while or at a high dose, suddenly decreasing or stopping the dose can cause withdrawal symptoms such as seizures, confusion, muscle cramps, twitching, diarrhea, and blurred vision. Take Xanax (alprazolam) exactly as prescribed and talk to your doctor if you wish to stop taking Xanax (alprazolam).

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Xanax (alprazolam) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for the start or worsening of depression, suicidal thoughts or behavior, or any unusual changes in mood or behavior.

