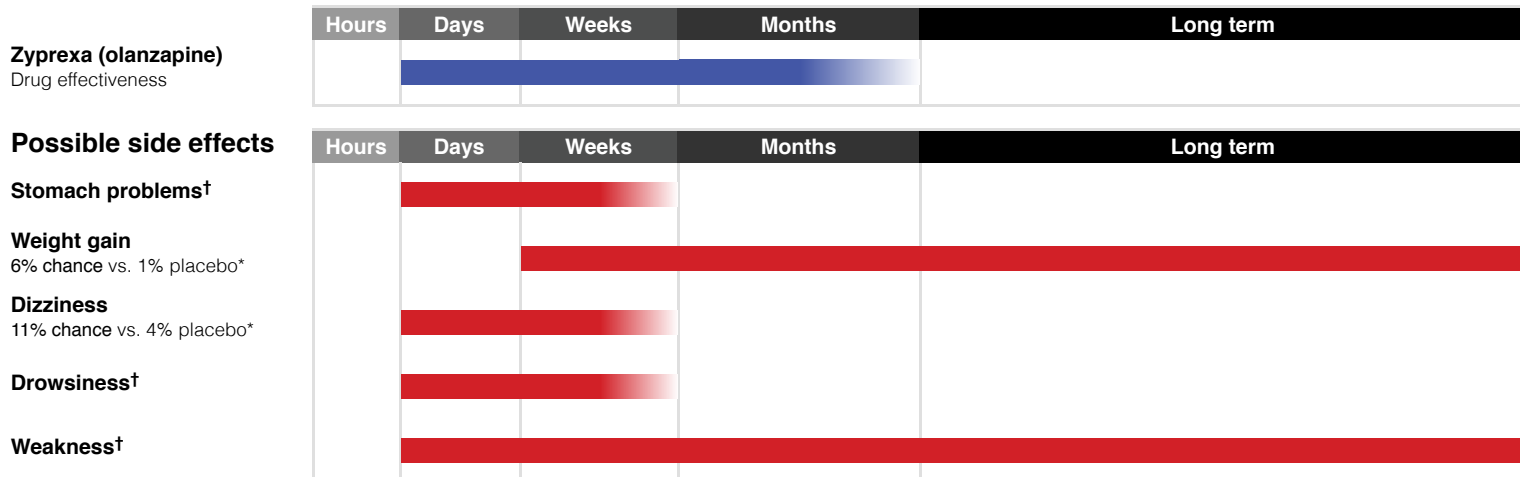


Zyprexa (olanzapine) basics

Helps control your thoughts and mood. Zyprexa (olanzapine) is good for treating psychosis, mania, and agitation, but it's more likely to cause weight gain and sleepiness than other antipsychotics.

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

- Takes at least 4 to 6 weeks to see full effects on thoughts and mood.
- Can cause dizziness and drowsiness.
- For the first week, avoid activities that require you to be alert.
- May cause weight gain and increased cholesterol or blood sugar.
- Report any unusual thoughts, inability to control muscle movements, or fever and excess sweating to your doctor.
- Elderly people with dementia shouldn't take Zyprexa (olanzapine).

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.

Increased risk of death

Older patients with dementia-related psychosis have a higher risk of death when treated with antipsychotic medications. Zyprexa (olanzapine) is not approved to treat dementia-related psychosis.

Blood disorders

Rarely, Zyprexa (olanzapine) can lower white blood cell counts. White blood cells help your body fight infections. Tell your doctor if you have any infection symptoms (such as fever, sore throat, or mouth/throat swelling) that don't go away. You may need routine blood tests while on this medication.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

This is a rare but life-threatening condition associated with all antipsychotic (neuroleptic) medications. Symptoms include high fever, fast heart rate, full body stiffness, and confusion. Seek medical attention immediately.