

Side Effects

Many medicines have side effects. Side effects are new problems that medicine can cause. This can happen even when the medicine is working correctly. For example, you may take an antibiotic to cure an infection. This medicine may cause nausea even though it is doing a good job of curing the infection.



It is important to know what side effects a medicine might cause before you start taking it. When your doctor gives you a prescription for new medicine, ask what side effects you might have.

Over-the-counter (OTC) medicine can have side effects, too. When you buy OTC medicine, read the label carefully. If you have any questions ask the pharmacist.

Side effects usually begin soon after you start a new medicine. Side effects might decrease or stop after 4 to 6 weeks.



Two people taking the same medicine can have different experiences. Women may have different side effects than men.

Some people have no side effects at all. Some have side effects that are minor or manageable. A few people have serious side effects.



If you have any side effects from medicine, tell your doctor. Most side effects are minor. But, a few are dangerous and may require immediate medical attention.

Talk to your doctor if you have any problems with your medicine.

For more information about OTC medicine labels see **OTC Labels**.

For more information about prescription medicine labels see **Prescription Labels**.

For more information about warning labels see **Warning Labels**.