

# Revia/Vivitrol (naltrexone)



## What is it usually prescribed for?

Alcohol dependence (addiction), blocking effects of opioids, and preventing relapse to opioid dependence (addiction).



## How does it work?

Revia/Vivitrol reduce the pleasurable effects of alcohol and opioids. They block the activity of the opioid system in the brain.



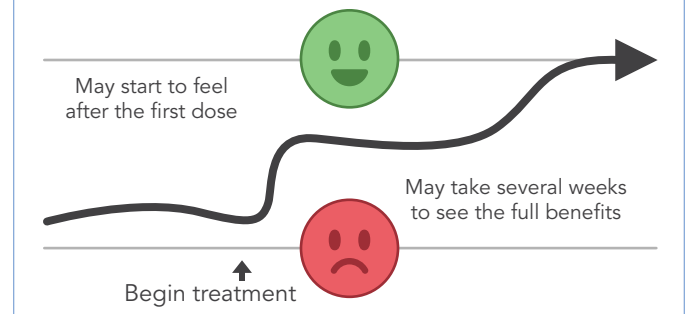
## What should I expect?

Symptoms may improve after the first dose. It may take a few weeks for you to see the full benefits of Revia/Vivitrol.

Your healthcare professional will determine if Revia (oral tablet) or Vivitrol (injection) is best for you. Take Revia exactly as prescribed to get the full benefit of this medicine. Vivitrol is injected every 4 weeks by your healthcare professional.

Tell your healthcare professional about how the medicine is working for you and if you have any side effects, so changes to your dose can be made if needed.

## WHEN WILL I FEEL BETTER?



## Will I have side effects?

You may or may not have side effects when taking Revia/Vivitrol. Vivitrol may cause irritation at the site of the injection.

Before starting Revia/Vivitrol, you must be free of all substances that contain opioids for 7–14 days. If not, you may have symptoms like sweating, shaking, nausea, or throwing up.

During treatment, using opioids at the same (or higher) dose that you used before starting Revia/Vivitrol puts you at risk of deadly overdose.

After stopping Revia/Vivitrol, you may respond to lower doses of opioids than previously used. This means that previous doses can lead to opioid intoxication.

## What are common side effects and what can I do to feel better?

If your side effects are mild, talk to your healthcare professional about them at your next appointment.

	Drink less caffeine and alcohol	Eat small meals more often	Drink plenty of water	Healthcare professional suggestion
Nausea or throwing up	X	X	X	
Feeling dizzy	X		X	
Headache	X		X	
Feeling worried or nervous	X			
Feeling less hungry		X	X	
Trouble sleeping	X			

Note: This is not a complete list of side effects; other side effects are possible. Before starting Revia/Vivitrol, tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are taking to avoid unexpected side effects.



Neuroscience Education Institute

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## YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

In 2020, Revia/Vivitrol was prescribed nearly 1.1 million times in the United States.







## What should I avoid?

Don't start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional first. There are interactions with medicines that may increase your chance of side effects.

Do not suddenly stop taking Revia/Vivitrol unless your healthcare professional has told you to, because your symptoms may return.

Avoid alcohol, recreational drugs, and prescription opioid medications. They may decrease the benefits of Revia/Vivitrol and increase the chance of side effects.

## WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

-  It may take up to a few weeks for you to feel the full benefits of taking this medicine
-  Tell your healthcare professional about any troubling side effects so that you can work together to address them
-  Take exactly as prescribed and do not suddenly stop taking this medicine unless told to do so by a healthcare professional
-  Using opioids at the same (or higher) dose that you used before starting Revia/Vivitrol puts you at risk of deadly overdose
-  Do not start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional
-  Get medical care right away if you have serious side effects



## When should I call a healthcare professional right away or visit the emergency room?

If you have any **serious** side effects. Here are some examples of serious side effects:

- Thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself
- Shortness of breath or wheezing, coughing that does not go away
- Stomach cramps, nausea or throwing up, diarrhea, pain in your joints, bones, or muscle, changes in mood, runny nose
- Severe skin irritation after injection

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center (800-222-1222) or get medical care right away.



## Where can I get more help?

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – [nami.org](https://www.nami.org)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line – Text “HELLO” to 741741



## Notes and questions for my next appointment

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