

Pristiq Side Effects

Dry mouth, dizziness, and nausea are the most common side effects reported with Pristiq. Side effects that are less common (occurring in less than 2 percent of people) include hot flashes, nosebleeds, and yawning. Most side effects are minor and easily treated. However, contact your healthcare provider immediately if you experience such side effects of Pristiq as hallucinations, seizures, or panic attacks.

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An Introduction to Pristiq Side Effects

As with any medicine, side effects are possible with **Pristiq**[®] (**desvenlafaxine** succinate); however, not everyone who takes the drug will experience side effects. In fact, most people tolerate it quite well. If side effects do occur, in most cases, they are minor and either require no treatment or can easily be treated by you or your healthcare provider.

(This article covers many, but not all, of the possible side effects with Pristiq. Your healthcare provider can discuss a more complete list of Pristiq side effects with you.)

Common Side Effects of Pristiq

Pristiq has been studied thoroughly in clinical trials. In these trials, one group of people was given the medication, while another group was given a placebo (a "sugar pill" with no active ingredients). This way, it is possible to see what side effects occurred, how often they appeared, and how they compared to the group who took the placebo.

In these studies, the most common side **effects of Pristiq** (when taken at the recommended dose of 50 mg per day) included:

- Nausea -- in up to 22 percent of people
- Dizziness -- up to 13 percent
- Dry mouth -- up to 11 percent
- **Diarrhea** -- up to 11 percent
- Increased sweating -- up to 10 percent.

Other common side effects (occurring in 2 to 9 percent of people) include but are not limited to:

- **Constipation**
- Fatigue
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss
- **Insomnia**
- Irritability
- Abnormal dreams
- Blurred vision
- Ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
- A spinning sensation (vertigo)
- Decreased sex drive (libido) in men
- **Impotence** (also known as **erectile dysfunction** or **ED**).
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Pristiq Side Effects to Report

Some side effects with **Pristiq**, while occurring infrequently, are potentially serious and should be reported immediately to your healthcare provider. These include but are not limited to:

- Suicidal thoughts or behavior (see **Depression and Suicide**)
- **Anxiety**, agitation, or **panic attacks**
- Hostility or aggressiveness
- Engaging in unusual or dangerous activities
- Restlessness or inability to sit still
- Extreme elation or feeling of happiness that may switch back and forth with a depressed or sad mood
- Other unusual changes in behavior
- Signs of serotonin syndrome (a rare but dangerous problem associated with certain medications), such as:
 - Confusion or other mental changes
 - A rapid heart rate
 - Nausea, vomiting, or **diarrhea**
 - Hallucinations
 - **Blood pressure** changes
 - An irregular heart rhythm
 - Overactive reflexes
 - Fever, sweating, or shivering

- Shakiness
 - Agitation
 - **Seizures**
 - Coma
- Feelings of a rapidly or forcefully beating heart (known as heart palpitations)
 - **Seizures**
 - A high fever
 - **High blood pressure (hypertension)**
 - Easy bruising or bleeding
 - Low sodium levels in the blood (hyponatremia)
 - Signs of an allergic reaction, such as:
 - Unexplained rash
 - Hives
 - Itching
 - Unexplained swelling
 - Wheezing
 - Difficulty breathing or swallowing.
 - Yawning
 - **Hot flashes**
 - Delayed ejaculation
 - Lack of orgasm
 - Nosebleeds
 - Increased **LDL cholesterol** ("bad" cholesterol).
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Pristiq Side Effects: Final Thoughts

You may experience some or none of the Pristiq side effects listed in this article. Unfortunately, there is no way for your healthcare provider to know beforehand if you will have side effects from a medicine that you have never tried. Therefore, make sure to let your healthcare provider know if you develop any side effects while taking the drug or if something "just does not seem right." While it may not be a side effect of Pristiq, your healthcare provider will be able to diagnose and treat the problem.