



[Home](#)

2. Naproxen

# Naproxen

**Generic name:** naproxen [ *na-PROX-en* ]

**Brand names:** [Aleve](#), [EC-Naprosyn](#), [Flanax Pain Reliever](#), [Midol Extended Relief](#), [Naprelan](#), ... [show all 12 brands](#)

**Drug class:** [Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs](#)

Medically reviewed by [Kaci Durbin, MD](#). Last updated on Jan 24, 2024.

[Uses](#)   [Side effects](#)   [Warnings](#)   [Before taking](#)   [Dosage](#)   [Interactions](#)   [FAQ](#)

## What is naproxen?

Naproxen is a [nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug](#) (NSAID). It works by reducing hormones that cause inflammation and pain in the body.

Naproxen is used to treat pain or inflammation caused by conditions such as [arthritis](#), [ankylosing spondylitis](#), tendinitis, bursitis, gout, or menstrual cramps. It can also be used to treat acute pain caused by other conditions not listed in this medication guide.

The delayed-release or extended-release tablets are slower-acting forms of naproxen that are used only for treating chronic conditions such as arthritis or ankylosing spondylitis. These forms will not work fast enough to treat acute pain.

*Naproxen is also available in combination with other medications under the following brand names: Aleve PM, Aleve-D Sinus and Cold, Treximet, and Vimovo*

## Naproxen side effects

### Common naproxen side effects

Common naproxen side effects may include indigestion, heartburn, stomach pain, nausea, headache, dizziness, drowsiness, bruising, itching, rash, swelling or ringing in your ears.

### Serious naproxen side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have signs of an allergic reaction to naproxen (runny or stuffy nose, wheezing or trouble breathing, hives, swelling in your face or throat) or a severe skin reaction (fever, sore throat, burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

**Stop using naproxen and seek medical treatment if you have a serious drug reaction that can affect many parts of your body.** Symptoms may include skin rash, fever, swollen glands, muscle aches, severe weakness, unusual bruising, or yellowing of your skin or eyes.

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of a heart attack or stroke**: chest pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, sudden numbness or weakness on one side of the body, slurred speech, feeling short of breath.

Stop using naproxen and call your doctor at once if you have:

- shortness of breath (even with mild exertion);
- swelling or rapid weight gain;
- the first sign of any skin rash, no matter how mild;
- **signs of stomach bleeding** - bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- **liver problems** - nausea, upper stomach pain, itching, tired feeling, flu-like symptoms, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- **kidney problems** - little or no urinating, painful or difficult urination, swelling in your feet or ankles, feeling tired or short of breath;
- **low red blood cells (anemia)** - pale skin, feeling light-headed or short of breath, rapid heart rate, trouble concentrating; or
- **severe skin reaction** - fever, sore throat, swelling in your face or tongue, burning in your eyes, skin pain followed by a red or purple skin rash that spreads (especially in the face or upper body) and causes blistering and peeling.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Naproxen side effects](#) (more detail)

## Related/similar drugs

### Rinvoq

Rinvoq (upadacitinib) is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, atopic ...

#### Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[223 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

### Propranolol

Propranolol is a beta-blocker that is used to treat tremors, chest pain, high blood pressure, heart ...

#### Reviews & ratings

8.2 / 10

[1,376 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

## Xeljanz

Xeljanz (tofacitinib) is an oral Janus kinase (JAK) inhibitor that may be used alone or with other ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[145 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Amitriptyline

Amitriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant used to treat depression and, off-label, conditions ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[1,803 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Tramadol

Tramadol is an opioid medication that may be used to treat moderate to moderately severe chronic ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.0 / 10

[1,876 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Hydroxyzine

Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine used to treat itching, hives, and anxiety. It also acts as a ...

### Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[1,404 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Duloxetine

Duloxetine is a selective serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor antidepressant used to ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.2 / 10

[2,456 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Cyclobenzaprine

Cyclobenzaprine is a muscle relaxant and works by blocking pain sensations. Includes ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.0 / 10

[618 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Meloxicam

Meloxicam is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug used to treat pain or inflammation caused by ...

### Reviews & ratings

6.3 / 10

[600 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Aspirin

Aspirin is used to treat mild to moderate pain and to reduce fever or inflammation. Learn about ...

### Reviews & ratings

7.8 / 10

[51 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

## Warnings

You should not use naproxen if you have a history of allergic reaction to aspirin or other NSAID (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug).

Naproxen can increase your risk of fatal heart attack or stroke, especially if you use it long term or take high doses, or if you have heart disease. Even people without heart disease or risk factors could have a stroke or heart attack while taking this medicine.

Do not use this medicine just before or after heart bypass surgery (coronary artery bypass graft, or CABG).

Get emergency medical help if you have swelling of the face or throat, chest pain, weakness, shortness of breath, slurred speech, or problems with vision or balance. Stop taking naproxen and notify your physician if you notice stomach pain, tiredness or weakness, yellow skin or eyes, nausea, vomiting, bloody or black and sticky bowel movements, skin rash, unexplained weight loss or weight gain, or swelling of the hands and feet.

Naproxen may also cause stomach or intestinal bleeding, which can be fatal. These conditions can occur without warning while you are using this medicine, especially in older adults.

## Before taking this medicine

Naproxen may also cause stomach or intestinal bleeding, which can be fatal. These conditions can occur without warning while you are using this medicine, especially in older adults.

You should not use naproxen if you are allergic to it, or if you have ever had an asthma attack or severe allergic reaction after taking aspirin or an NSAID.

Ask a doctor before giving naproxen to a child younger than 12 years old.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use this medicine if you have:

- heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or if you smoke;
- a history of heart attack, stroke, or blood clot;
- a history of stomach ulcers or bleeding;
- asthma;
- liver or kidney disease;
- fluid retention: or
- if you take aspirin to prevent heart attack or stroke.

**If you are pregnant, you should not take naproxen unless your doctor tells you to.** Taking a NSAID during the last 20 weeks of pregnancy can cause serious heart or kidney problems in the unborn baby and possible complications with your pregnancy.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using naproxen. Ask your doctor about any risk.

Naproxen is not approved for use by anyone younger than 2 years old. **Do not give this medicine to a child without medical advice.**

 [Naproxen pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

## How should I take naproxen?

Use naproxen exactly as directed on the label, or as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take this medicine in larger amounts or for longer than recommended. Use the lowest dose that is effective in treating your condition.

Shake the oral suspension (liquid) well just before you measure a dose. **Measure liquid medicine** with the dosing syringe provided, or with a special dose-measuring spoon or medicine cup. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

If you change brands, strengths, or forms of this medicine, your dosage needs may change. Ask your pharmacist if you have any questions about the kind of naproxen you are using.

If a child is using this medicine, tell your doctor if the child has any changes in weight. Doses are based on weight in children, and any changes may affect your child's dose.

If you use this medicine long-term, you may need frequent medical tests.

This medicine can cause unusual results with certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using naproxen.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use.

Read all patient information, medication guides, and instruction sheets provided to you. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

 [Detailed Naproxen dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since naproxen is sometimes used only when needed, you may not be on a dosing schedule. If you are on a schedule, use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

## What to avoid

Avoid drinking alcohol. It may increase your risk of stomach bleeding.

Avoid taking aspirin or other NSAIDs unless your doctor tells you to.

Ask your doctor before taking any other medication for pain, arthritis, fever, or swelling. Many medicines available over the counter contain aspirin, salicylates, or other medicines similar to naproxen (such as ibuprofen or ketoprofen). Taking certain products together can cause you to get too much of this type of medication.

Ask your doctor before using an antacid, and use only the type your doctor recommends. Some antacids can make it harder for your body to absorb naproxen.

## What other drugs will affect naproxen?

**Ask your doctor before using naproxen if you take an antidepressant** such as citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine (Prozac), fluvoxamine, paroxetine, sertraline (Zoloft), trazodone, or vilazodone. Taking any of these medicines with an NSAID may cause you to bruise or bleed easily.

Ask a doctor or pharmacist if it is safe for you to use this medicine if you are also using any of the following drugs:

- cholestyramine;
- cyclosporine;
- digoxin;
- lithium;
- methotrexate;
- pemetrexed;
- phenytoin or similar seizure medications;
- probenecid;
- warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven) or similar blood thinners;
- a diuretic or "water pill";
- heart or blood pressure medication; or
- insulin or oral diabetes medicine.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with naproxen, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible interactions are listed in this medication guide.

 [Naproxen drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does naproxen interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

Add

## Popular FAQ

Naproxen vs ibuprofen: What's the difference? 

What is Caridoxen used for? 

How long does naproxen stay in your system? 

Does Feverfew interact with any drugs?



What is Apronax called in the USA?



## More FAQ

- [Which painkiller should you use?](#)
- [What is the best way to reduce swelling in your face?](#)
- [Can NSAIDs be used to treat a COVID-19 fever?](#)

[View more FAQ...](#)

## More about naproxen

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(683\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Latest FDA alerts \(8\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

## Patient resources

- [Naproxen Modified-Release Tablets patient information](#)
- [Naproxen Tablets and Capsules](#)

## Other brands

[Aleve](#), [Naprosyn](#), [Anaprox](#), [Anaprox-DS](#), ... +4 more

## Professional resources

- [Naproxen monograph](#)
- [Naproxen \(FDA\)](#)



- [Naproxen CR Tablets \(FDA\)](#)
- [Naproxen Capsules \(FDA\)](#)
- [Naproxen Delayed Release \(FDA\)](#)
- [Naproxen Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Aleve](#), [Naprosyn](#), [Naprelan](#), [All Day Pain Relief](#), [All Day Relief](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Back Pain](#)
- [Ankylosing Spondylitis](#)
- [Bursitis](#)
- [Aseptic Necrosis](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medicine only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 20.01.

DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
	Rx and/or OTC	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
<b>N/A</b>	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
	Drug history at FDA	▼

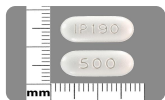
User Reviews & Ratings

6.8 / 10

[683 Reviews](#)

Images

Naproxen 500 mg (IP 190 500)



[View larger images](#)

## Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



### About

[About Drugs.com](#)

[Advertising policy](#)

[Attribution & citations](#)

### Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)

[Editorial policy](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

### Support

[Help center](#)

[Sitemap](#)

[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

**Drugs.com** provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices

ADVERTISEMENT

Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

