



[Home](#)

2. [Namenda](#)

Namenda

Pronunciation: *Nuh-MEN-dah*

Generic name: [memantine](#)

Brand names: Namenda, [Namenda XR](#)

Dosage form: oral tablets

Drug class: [Miscellaneous central nervous system agents](#)

Medically reviewed by [Carmen Pope, BPharm](#). Last updated on Aug 28, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [What to avoid](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is Namenda?

Namenda (memantine) reduces the actions of chemicals in the brain that may contribute to the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease.

Namenda is used to treat moderate to severe dementia of the [Alzheimer's](#) type.

Namenda's mechanism of action is to help balance a brain chemical called glutamate. In Alzheimer's, there can be too much glutamate activity, which can harm brain cells. By controlling glutamate, Namenda may help protect brain cells from damage and improve memory and thinking skills in some people with Alzheimer's. Namenda is not a cure for Alzheimer's.

Because Namenda works differently from other Alzheimer's medications it may be prescribed along with other Alzheimer's drugs for better results. Namenda belongs to the drug class called NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate) inhibitors.

Namenda gained FDA approval on October 16, 2003. A Namenda generic is available under the name memantine.

Namenda side effects

The most common Namenda side effects are:

- dizziness
- headache
- confusion
- constipation.

Serious side effects and warnings

Your body **gets rid of Namenda through your urine**. Some health conditions, such as a urinary tract infection, kidney disease, medications, or diet can make your urine less acidic (raise its pH). If this happens, your body might not remove

Namenda as well as it should. This could cause more Namenda to stay in your blood than usual.

Namenda can cause side effects that may **impair your thinking or reactions**. Be careful if you drive or do anything requiring you to be alert.

Namenda may cause an **allergic reaction**. Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Namenda**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

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 the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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

Related/similar drugs

Leqembi

Leqembi (lecanemab) is used to treat Alzheimer's disease to help slow the progression of dementia s ...

Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Exelon

Exelon (rivastigmine) is used to treat dementia caused by Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease ...

Reviews & ratings

6.5 / 10

[15 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Aricept

Aricept is used to treat mild to severe dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease. Learn about side ...

Reviews & ratings

5.7 / 10

[47 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Kisunla

Kisunla (donanemab) is used to treat Alzheimer's disease to help slow down the decline in memory, t ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Donanemab

Donanemab (Kisunla) is used to treat Alzheimer's disease to help slow down the decline in memory, t ...

Reviews & ratings

[Add a review](#)

[View more](#)

Vitamin e

Vitamin E is an antioxidant that occurs naturally in some foods and is used to treat or prevent ...

Reviews & ratings

[7 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Donepezil

Donepezil (brand name Aricept) may be used to treat dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease ...

Reviews & ratings

5.8 / 10

[140 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Before taking this medicine

Do not take Namenda if you are allergic to memantine, Namenda, or any of the inactive ingredients in the tablets (see the ingredient list below).

Before taking Namenda, tell your doctor about all your medical conditions including if you have:

- have or have had seizures or epilepsy
- have liver disease
- have kidney disease
- have problems passing urine
- have a bladder or kidney infection
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.

Pregnancy

It is not known if Namenda will harm an unborn baby.

Breastfeeding

It is not known if Namenda passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you take Namenda.

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

How do I take Namenda?

Take Namenda exactly as it was prescribed for you. Follow all directions on your prescription label and do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

- Namenda is usually taken once or twice daily (see Namenda dosage below).
- Namenda can be taken with or without food.
- Do not crush, chew, break, or open an **extended-release capsule**. Swallow it whole.

To make swallowing easier, you may open the extended-release capsule and sprinkle the medicine into a spoonful of applesauce. Swallow right away without chewing. Do not save the mixture for later use.

Use Namenda regularly to get the most benefit. Get your prescription refilled before you run out of medicine completely.

- Your doctor will need to check your progress while you are using Namenda.

Namenda dosing information

Usual Adult Dose of Namenda for Alzheimer's Disease:

IMMEDIATE-RELEASE:

Initial dose: Namenda 5 mg orally once a day, then titrated upwards by 5 mg per week

Maintenance dose: Namenda 5 mg once a day up to Namenda 10 mg twice a day

Maximum dose: 20 mg per day

EXTENDED-RELEASE:

Initial dose: Namenda XR 7 mg orally once a day, then titrated upwards by 7 mg per week

Maintenance dose: Namenda XR 7 mg once a day up to Namenda XR 28 mg once a day

Maximum dose: 28 mg orally once a day

 [Detailed Namenda dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

If you miss doses or forget to take your medicine for several days, call your doctor before starting the medicine again.

What happens if I overdose?

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

What to avoid

Namenda can cause side effects that may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything requiring you to be alert.

What other drugs will affect Namenda?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using, especially:

- amantadine
- ketamine
- zonisamide
- cough medicine that contains dextromethorphan (Delsym, Robitussin Maximum Strength, Vicks 44, and others)
- medicines to make the urine alkaline - urine sodium bicarbonate, potassium citrate (K-Lyte, Urocit-K), sodium citrate and citric acid (Bicitra, Oracit), or sodium citrate and potassium (Citrolith, Polycitra) (can reduce the clearance of Namenda by about 80%)
- medicine to treat glaucoma or increased pressure inside the eyes - acetazolamide, methazolamide.

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

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

Does Namenda interact with my other drugs?

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

Namenda

+

Namenda ingredients

Active ingredient: memantine hydrochloride 5 mg or 10 mg

Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose/colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, croscarmellose sodium, and magnesium stearate

Inactive ingredients of tablet film coating: hypromellose, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 400, FD&C yellow #6 and FD&C blue #2 (5 mg tablets), and hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol/polyethylene glycol 400 and iron oxide black (10 mg tablets).

Available as Namenda 5 mg tablets and Namenda 10 mg tablets.

Storage

Store Namenda at room temperature between 59°F to 77°F (15°C to 30°C) away from moisture and heat.

Who makes Namenda?

Merz Pharmaceuticals GmbH makes Namenda which is distributed by Allergan USA, Inc.

Popular FAQ

What are 4 key Namenda side effects to watch out for?



How does Namenda work?



References

1. [Namenda Package Insert](#)

More about Namenda (memantine)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(33\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)

- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Drug class: miscellaneous central nervous system agents](#)
- [En español](#)

Professional resources

- [Namenda prescribing information](#)
- [Memantine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other formulations

- [Namenda XR](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Alzheimer's Disease](#)

Further information

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
<div>10+ years</div>	FDA approved 2003

User Reviews & Ratings

5.8 / 10

[33 Reviews](#)

Images

[Namenda 5 mg \(5 FL\)](#)



[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.