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# Levitra

**Generic name:** [varденафил](#) [ var-*DEN*-a-fil ]

**Drug class:** [Impotence agents](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Dec 10, 2024.

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The Levitra brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

## What is Levitra?

Levitra (varденафил) belongs to a class of medications called phosphodiesterase (PDE) inhibitors. Vardenafil relaxes muscles found in the walls of blood vessels and increases blood flow to particular areas of the body.

Levitra works by increasing blood flow to the penis during sexual stimulation. This increased blood flow can cause an erection.

Levitra is used to treat [erectile dysfunction](#) (impotence; inability to get or keep an erection) in men.

Levitra does not cure erectile dysfunction or increase sexual desire. This medicine does not prevent pregnancy or the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

## Warnings

**Some medicines can cause unwanted or dangerous effects when used with Levitra.** Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially [riociguat](#) ([Adempas](#)).

Do not take Levitra if you are also using a nitrate drug for chest pain or heart problems, including [nitroglycerin](#), [isosorbide dinitrate](#), [isosorbide mononitrate](#), and some recreational drugs such as "poppers". **Taking vardenafil with a nitrate medicine can cause a sudden and serious decrease in blood pressure.**

Call your doctor or seek emergency medical attention if your erection is painful or lasts longer than 4 hours. A prolonged erection ([priapism](#)) can damage the penis.

Stop using this medicine and get emergency medical help if you have sudden vision loss.

During sexual activity, if you become dizzy or nauseated, or have pain, numbness, or tingling in your chest, arms, neck,

or jaw, stop and call your doctor right away. You could be having a serious side effect.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use Levitra if you are allergic to vardenafil, or if you take other medicines to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, such as riociguat (Adempas).

Do not take Levitra if you are also using a nitrate drug for chest pain or heart problems, including nitroglycerin, [isosorbide](#) dinitrate, and isosorbide mononitrate. Nitrates are also found in some recreational drugs such as amyl nitrate or nitrite ("poppers"). **Taking vardenafil with a nitrate medicine can cause a sudden and serious decrease in blood pressure.**

To make sure Levitra is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart disease, heart rhythm problems;
- a [heart attack](#), stroke, or congestive [heart failure](#);
- [long QT syndrome](#) (in you or a family member);
- high or [low blood pressure](#);
- seizure (convulsions);
- a blood cell disorder such as sickle cell [anemia](#), [multiple myeloma](#), or [leukemia](#);
- a [bleeding disorder](#) such as [hemophilia](#);
- a [stomach ulcer](#);
- hearing or vision problems, vision loss;
- an eye disorder such as [retinitis pigmentosa](#) (an inherited condition of the eye);
- a physical deformity of the penis (such as Peyronie's disease);
- if you have been told you should not have sexual intercourse for health reasons; or
- liver disease, kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis).

Vardenafil can decrease blood flow to the optic nerve of the eye, causing sudden vision loss. This has occurred in a small number of people, most of whom also had heart disease, diabetes, [high blood pressure](#), [high cholesterol](#), or certain pre-existing eye problems, and in those who smoked or were over 50 years old. It is not clear whether vardenafil is the actual cause of vision loss.

Levitra is not approved for use in women, and the effects of this medicine during pregnancy or in breastfeeding women are unknown.

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

## How should I use Levitra?

Take Levitra exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets.

Levitra can be taken with or without food.

Staxyn (vardenafil disintegrating tablets) should not be used in place of Levitra (vardenafil regular tablets). Avoid medication errors by using only the form and strength your doctor prescribes.

Levitra is taken only when needed, about 60 minutes before sexual activity. The medicine can help achieve an erection when sexual stimulation occurs. An erection will not occur just by taking a pill.

Call your doctor or seek emergency medical attention if your erection is painful or lasts longer than 4 hours. A prolonged erection (priapism) can damage the penis.

If you receive medical care for heart problems, tell your caregivers when you last took Levitra.

This medicine does not prevent the spread of [sexually transmitted diseases](#) such as human [immunodeficiency](#) virus (HIV).

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

## Dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Erectile Dysfunction:

-Initial dose: 10 mg orally once a day, as needed, approximately 60 minutes before sexual activity. Increase to 20 mg or decrease to 5 mg based on efficacy and tolerability.

-Maximum dose: 20 mg once a day

Patients on stable alpha blocker therapy:

-Initial dose: 5 mg orally once a day

Comments:

-Sexual stimulation is required for a response to treatment.

-A time interval between dosing should be considered when administering this drug concomitantly with alpha-blockers.

Use: Erectile dysfunction

### Usual Geriatric Dose for Erectile Dysfunction:

65 years or older:

-Initial dose: 5 mg orally once a day, as needed, approximately 60 minutes before sexual activity

Comments: Sexual stimulation is required for a response to treatment.

Use: Erectile dysfunction

 [Detailed Levitra dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Since Levitra is used as needed, you are not likely to be on a dosing schedule.

Do not take Levitra more than once a day. Allow 24 hours to pass between doses.

## What happens if I overdose?

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

## What should I avoid while using Levitra?

Grapefruit and Seville oranges may interact with vardenafil and cause side effects. Avoid consuming grapefruit products and orange marmalades.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of Levitra.

Do not use any other medicine to treat impotence unless your doctor tells you to.

## Levitra side effects

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

**Stop using Levitra and get emergency medical help if you have:**

- **heart attack symptoms** - chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, [nausea](#), sweating;
- vision changes or sudden vision loss; or
- erection is painful or lasts longer than 4 hours (prolonged erection can damage the penis).

**Levitra may cause serious side effects. Stop using Levitra and call your doctor at once if you have:**

- ringing in your ears, or sudden [hearing loss](#);
- [irregular heartbeat](#);
- swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet;
- shortness of breath;
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out; or
- seizure (convulsions).

**Common Levitra side effects may include:**

- flushing (sudden warmth, redness, or tingly feeling);
- stuffy nose, sinus pain;
- [headache](#), dizziness;
- [upset stomach](#); or
- [back pain](#).

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.

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

## Related/similar drugs

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## What other drugs will affect Levitra?

Do not use Levitra with similar medications such as [avanafil](#) ([Stendra](#)), [sildenafil](#) ([Viagra](#)), or [tadalafil](#) ([Cialis](#)). **Tell your doctor about all other medications you use for erectile dysfunction.**

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- **an antibiotic** - [clarithromycin](#), [erythromycin](#);
- **antifungal medicine** - [itraconazole](#), [ketoconazole](#);
- **drugs to treat high blood pressure or a prostate disorder** - [alfuzosin](#), [doxazosin](#), [prazosin](#), [silodosin](#), [terazosin](#), [tamsulosin](#);
- **heart rhythm medicine** - [amiodarone](#), [dronedarone](#), [procainamide](#), [quinidine](#), [sotalol](#); or
- **HIV/AIDS medicine** - [atazanavir](#), [indinavir](#), [ritonavir](#), [saquinavir](#), [cobicistat](#), and others.

This list is not complete and many Other drugs may interact with vardenafil. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

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

## Does Levitra interact with my other drugs?

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

Levitra

+

Enter a drug name

Add

## Frequently asked questions

- [How long will Levitra last? If I climax before her will it last until she is done?](#)

### References

1. [Levitra Prescribing Information](#)

## More about Levitra (vardenafil)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Reviews \(133\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: impotence agents](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Staxyn](#)

## Professional resources

- [Levitra prescribing information](#)
- [Vardenafil \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

### Other brands

[Staxyn](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [Erectile Dysfunction](#)

# Further information

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

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

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

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## DRUG STATUS

<b>Availability</b>		
	Discontinued	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
<b>N/A</b>	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
<b>10+ years</b>	FDA approved 2003	▼

## User Reviews & Ratings

7.8 / 10

[133 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Levitra 20 mg \(BAYER BAYER 20\)](#)



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