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Albendazole (Albenza)

Basics, Side Effects, Reviews & More



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Albendazole (Albenza) is effective for treating tapeworm infections, but may cause serious liver, blood, and eye problems.

COMMON BRANDS

Albenza

DRUG CLASS

Antiparasitic

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE CLASSIFICATION

Not a controlled medication

GENERIC STATUS

Lower-cost generic available

AVAILABILITY

Prescription only

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What is albendazole (Albenza)?

How albendazole (Albenza) works

Albendazole (Albenza) is an antiparasitic medication. It kills intestinal worms by not allowing them to use energy for survival.

What is albendazole (Albenza) used for?

- Tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs

- Tapeworms in the brain

Albendazole (Albenza) dosage forms



Tablet

200mg

Typical dosing for albendazole (Albenza)

- **Tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs:** The strength of albendazole (Albenza) depends on your weight, but the maximum dose taken is 400 mg. Albendazole (Albenza) is taken by mouth twice a day with meals for 28 days. You will then have 14 days of no medication, followed by another 28 days of albendazole (Albenza) with the same dose. This pattern is repeated a total of 3 times.
- **Tapeworms in the brain:** The strength of albendazole (Albenza) depends on your weight, but the maximum dose taken is 400 mg. Albendazole (Albenza) is taken by mouth twice a day with meals for 8 to 30 days.

Frequently asked questions about albendazole (Albenza)



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- Pros & Cons
- Tips

Follow the directions on your prescription bottle very carefully.

✓ Can I take one of my albendazole (Albenza) doses at bedtime?

Albendazole (Albenza) works best when you take it with a meal. Because most people do not eat full meals right before bed, this probably isn't the best time of day

to take one of your doses. Take albendazole (Albenza) with your morning and evening meals (breakfast and dinner).




> [Is albendazole \(Albenza\) an antibiotic?](#)

> [Is albendazole \(Albenza\) available over-the-counter?](#)







> [Can I drink alcohol while taking albendazole \(Albenza\)?](#)

Pros and cons of albendazole (Albenza)





Pros

-  Works well
-  Can be chewed, swallowed whole, or crushed and mixed with food
-  Can be given to children as young as [1 year old](#)

Cons

-  Not safe for pregnant women
-  Regular blood tests necessary
-  Can weaken your immune system
-  Can cause liver damage
-  Can damage the eyes
-  Can be expensive even though a generic is available

Pharmacist tips for albendazole (Albenza)

-  Take albendazole (Albenza) with meals. The medication doesn't work as well if you take it on an empty stomach. If you have trouble swallowing pills, the tablet can be crushed or chewed, and swallowed with a drink of water.
-  Albendazole (Albenza) is not safe to take if you're pregnant, as it can be harmful to your unborn baby. Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking albendazole (Albenza) and for 3 days after stopping this medication. Tell your healthcare provider immediately if you become pregnant while taking albendazole (Albenza).
-  Take a missed dose of albendazole (Albenza) as soon as you remember it unless it is almost time for your next dose. Never take 2 doses at the same time to make up for missed medication.
-  Be sure to get all blood tests done on time while you're taking albendazole (Albenza). This medication can affect your liver cells and your white blood cells. Regular blood tests are necessary while on albendazole (Albenza) to make sure your body is tolerating the medication.



Prices for albendazole (Albenza) start at just \$124.53 with a GoodRx coupon. They're fast, easy-to-use and free!


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What are the side effects of albendazole (Albenza)?

With any medication, there are risks and benefits. Even if the medication is working, you may experience some unwanted side effects.

 Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Very low number of white blood cells
- High pressure in the brain
- Liver failure

 The following side effects may get better over time as your body gets used to the medication. Let your doctor know immediately if you continue to experience these symptoms or if they worsen over time.

Common side effects

When used to treat tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs:

- Changes to liver blood tests (16%)
- Stomach pain (6%)
- Nausea (4%)
- Vomiting (4%)

When used to treat tapeworms in the brain:

- Headache (11%)
- Nausea (6%)
- Vomiting (6%)

Other side effects

When used to treat tapeworms that cause cysts in body organs:

- Fever
- Temporary hair loss
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Feeling like the world is spinning (vertigo)

When used to treat tapeworms in the brain:

- Fluid around the brain
- Signs of meningitis (neck stiffness, pain when turning head from side to side)
- Changes to liver blood tests

Source: [DailyMed](#)

The following side effects have also been reported:

Along with its needed effects, a medicine may cause some unwanted effects. Although not all of these side effects may occur, if they do occur they may need medical attention.

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What are the risks and warnings for albendazole (Albenza)?

Albendazole (Albenza) can cause some serious health issues. This risk may be even higher for certain groups. If this worries you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about other options

LOW WHITE BLOOD CELL COUNT

- **Risk factors:** *History of liver problems | Current liver problems*

Albendazole (Albenza) can lower the number of white blood cells in your body. These are the cells that fight off infections, and without the right amount, you can get sick easier and have a harder time getting better. This side effect is rare but can be life-threatening. Your risk of this is higher if you have or have had problems with your liver. You will have to have blood tests done regularly while you are taking albendazole (Albenza) to make sure your white blood cells are at a normal level.

BIRTH DEFECTS

Albendazole (Albenza) can cause birth defects and is not safe to use during pregnancy. You may be asked take a pregnancy test before starting albendazole (Albenza). You

should use a form of birth control while taking albendazole (Albenza) and for 3 days after your last dose. If you become pregnant, stop taking albendazole (Albenza) right away and talk to your healthcare provider.

HIGH PRESSURE IN THE BRAIN

- **Risk factors:** *Using albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms in the brain*

If you are taking albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms in the brain, it is possible to have higher pressure in and around the brain during the first week you are using albendazole (Albenza). This is caused by the tapeworms dying. You can experience seizures if this happens, and it can be life-threatening. Steroids or seizure medications are usually prescribed for the first week you are taking albendazole (Albenza) to help prevent this. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have seizures, a very bad headache, or weakness in one side of your face or body.

EYE DAMAGE

- **Risk factors:** *Using albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms in the brain*

For some people who have tapeworms in the brain, the tapeworm has also damaged their retinas. If you have this eye damage, albendazole (Albenza) can make the damage worse. This can lead to vision loss or even total blindness. You might need an eye exam to make sure your retinas are healthy before starting albendazole (Albenza). Tell your healthcare provider right away if you notice any sudden changes in vision while taking albendazole (Albenza).

LIVER FAILURE

- **Risk factors:** *Liver problems*

Albendazole (Albenza) can affect the health of your liver. For most people, these changes to your liver are minor and will go back to normal once you stop taking albendazole (Albenza). Rarely, albendazole (Albenza) can cause liver failure which is life-threatening. Your risk of more severe problems is higher if you have current liver problems. Be sure to get all blood tests done on time, so your healthcare provider can make sure your liver stays healthy enough to take albendazole (Albenza). If you have signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, decreased hunger, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow eyes or skin, contact your provider right away.

TAPEWORMS IN MULTIPLE AREAS OF THE BODY

Sometimes when people are using albendazole (Albenza) to treat tapeworms causing cysts, they also have tapeworms in the brain and don't realize it. If this happens, you have a higher risk of experiencing high pressure in the brain (see risk listed previously). Your healthcare provider might check you for tapeworms in the brain before you start taking albendazole (Albenza).

Interactions between albendazole (Albenza) and other medications

Albendazole (Albenza) may interact with certain medications or supplements. Always let your doctor and pharmacist know about any other medications or supplements (including prescribed and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and dietary or herbal supplements) that you are currently taking. The list below does not include all possible drug interactions with albendazole (Albenza). Please note that only the generic name of each medication is listed below.

Although certain medicines should not be used together at all, in other cases two different medicines may be used together even if an interaction might occur. In these cases, your doctor may want to change the dose, or other precautions may be

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How much does albendazole (Albenza) cost?

Albendazole (Albenza) is available as a generic medication and may be significantly cheaper compared to the brand version. Unless there is a specific reason you need the brand, the generic medication will be a better value. For even more savings, use a GoodRx coupon and pay just a fraction of the retail price.

Lowest GoodRx Price Albenza (brand)

\$432.46

Lowest GoodRx Price albendazole (generic)

\$124.53

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Pricing based on most commonly-filled versions: 4 tablets of albendazole 200mg

Albendazole (Albenza) images



White Round A210 - Albendazole 200mg Tablet



White Round 1021 - Albendazole 200mg Tablet



White Round V32 - Albendazole 200mg Tablet

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