

Points in here for a introduction.

Overactive Bladder Medication Side Effects

Overactive bladder is characterized by sudden urges to urinate, having to go more than eight to 10 times per day, and episodes of incontinence or urine leakage. If you have symptoms of overactive bladder, it is important to see your primary care physician or general internist to get an accurate diagnosis. The National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) explains the function and malfunctioning of the bladder. When the bladder is functioning normally, the muscles in the bladder wall remain relaxed, allowing the bladder to expand and store urine. During urination, the muscles contract, the bladder sphincters open, and urine is voluntarily released. People who have overactive bladder syndrome (OAB) experience "urgency", which is the sudden, strong urge to urinate. If the urge cannot be suppressed, the involuntary leakage of urine, or urge incontinence, results. Other symptoms of OAB include the need to urinate many times during the day (urinary frequency) and at night (nocturia). A common cause of OAB is the overactivity of the detrusor muscle, found in the bladder wall. Treatment includes the use of anticholinergic drugs that by blocking the receptors that mediate bladder contraction. However, treatment side effects, such as dry mouth, are common, and these agents are used only after, or in conjunction with, other methods, such as behavioral changes. If you are going to the bathroom too frequently, leaking or feeling the urge to run to the bathroom you may have Overactive Bladder Syndrome. Lifestyle changes and bladder training exercises can often provide relief without the need for a drug, but the pharmaceutical companies don't want you to know that, however. They've spent millions on advertising (nearly \$127 million last year alone) in an attempt to persuade you that you need one of their drugs that is intended to treat the condition of overactive bladder. The Mayo Clinic explains that medications that relax the bladder can be effective for relieving symptoms of overactive bladder and reducing episodes of urge incontinence. These drugs include:

- Tolterodine (Detrol)
- Oxybutynin (Ditropan XL)
- Oxybutynin as a skin patch (Oxytrol)
- Oxybutynin gel (Gelnique)
- Trospium (Sanctura)
- Solifenacin (Vesicare)
- Darifenacin (Enblex)
- Mirebegron (Myrbetriq)

The Mayo Clinic however, cautions that there are side effects and risks that coincide with each medication. What about those medicines in commercials for Overactive Bladder? Consumer Reports has done an in-depth study of the main medications used to treat Overactive Bladder. There are six different overactive bladder drugs that have been turned into at least a dozen separate products—darifenacin (Enblex), fesoterodine (Toviaz), oxybutynin (generic, Ditropan, Ditropan XL, a skin patch called Oxytrol, and a topical gel called Gelnique), solifenacin (Vesicare), tolterodine (Detrol, Detrol LA), and trospium (Sanctura, Sanctura XR). So let's look at some of the more popular medications and see what they disclose as risks or side effects of use of the medication. These risks and side effects were taken directly as disclosed on each medication's website.

1 Detrol® LA

(tolterodine tartrate extended release capsules) treats the symptoms of overactive bladder (leaks, strong sudden urges to go, going too often). Important Safety Information If you have certain stomach problems, glaucoma, or cannot empty your bladder, you should not take Detrol LA. Detrol LA may cause allergic reactions that may be serious. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction may include swelling of the face, lips, throat, or tongue. If you experience these symptoms, you should stop taking Detrol LA and get emergency medical help right away. Medicines like Detrol LA can cause blurred vision, dizziness and drowsiness. Do not drive, operate machinery, or do other dangerous activities until you know how Detrol LA affects you. The most common side effects with Detrol LA are dry mouth, constipation, headache, and stomach pain. Detrol LA has both benefits and risks. There may be other options. Ask your doctor if Detrol LA is right for you."

2 Vesicare

May cause serious side effects including:

- Important Safety Information
- Serious allergic reaction

Stop taking VESicare and get medical help right away if you have:

- hives, skin rash or swelling
- severe itching
- swelling of your face, mouth or tongue
- trouble breathing

The most common side effects of VESicare include:

- dry mouth
- constipation. (Call your doctor if you get severe stomach area (abdominal) pain or become constipated for 3 or more days.)
- urinary tract infection
- blurred vision
- heat exhaustion or heat-stroke. This can happen when VESicare is used in hot environments. Symptoms may include:
- decreased sweating
- dizziness
- tiredness
- nausea
- increase in body temperature

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the possible side effects of VESicare. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist."

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Toviaz

(fesoteradine fumarate) treats the symptoms of overactive bladder (leaks, strong sudden urges to go, going too often). **Important Safety Information** If you have certain stomach problems, glaucoma, or cannot empty your bladder, you should not take Toviaz. Toviaz may cause allergic reactions that may be serious. If you experience swelling of the face, lips, throat, or tongue, stop taking Toviaz and get emergency medical help right away. Medicines like Toviaz can cause blurred vision, dizziness, drowsiness, and decreased sweating. Do not drive, operate machinery, or do unsafe tasks until you know how Toviaz affects you. Use caution in hot environments. Drinking alcohol while taking medicines such as Toviaz may cause increased drowsiness. The most common side effects are dry mouth and constipation. Toviaz has benefits and risks. There may be other options.* This is just a look at three of the most common and popular selling medications for Overactive Bladder. The most common side effects of most of these drugs include dry eyes and dry mouth, but drinking water to quench thirst can aggravate symptoms of overactive bladder. Constipation — another potential side effect — can decrease bladder capacity, also aggravating symptoms. Extended-release forms of these medications, including the skin patch or gel, may cause fewer side effects. Please check with your doctor and as always check the side effects on the web site or as indicated on the side of the bottle before taking any medication.

Resources

- Toviaz Website
- Detrol Website
- Vesicare Website
- The Mayo Clinic
- Consumer Reports
- Web MD
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) is part of the United States National Library of Medicine

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