

Side effects; assisting patients with medication

1 THINK

A- What are side effects of medication?

B- Make a list of five common side effects.

2 READ

A- Read and listen to the extract from a **lecturer** talking about side effects to a group of students. Tick the side effects that he mentions.

- ☐ dizziness
- ☐ diarrhoea
- ☐ headaches
- ☐ nausea

- ☐ skin rash
- ☐ stomachache
- ☐ swelling
- ☐ vomiting

- ☐ tremors
- ☐ constipation
- ☐ drowsiness
- ☐ loss of appetite

Today we're talking about side effects. We'll look at the most common drugs first. As you know, some patients suffer side effects and others don't. And not all patients suffer the same side effects either. Let's consider ibuprofen, for example, a very common pain medication. Some people may suffer dizziness and others might feel nauseous. It's also possible to have diarrhoea, vomiting, even headaches with this type of pain medication.



Injecting drugs intravenously may cause swelling at the injection site for some patients.

Stomachaches are a side effect of some anti-allergy drugs, as well as loss of appetite and constipation. Patients who take Valium may experience drowsiness; others may get a skin rash. Tremors are another side effect of this drug.

B - Put the words in 1-5 in the correct order to make sentences. Then listen again and check your answers.

1 some patients / suffer / as you know, / side effects / and others don't

2 might feel nauseous / may suffer dizziness / some people / and others

3 even headaches / to have diarrhoea, / it's also possible / vomiting,

4 may cause swelling at the injection site / for some patients / injecting drugs intravenously

5 Valium / drowsiness / patients who take / may experience

May, might

We use **may/might** + infinitive to talk about actions or events that are possible now or in the future.

*You **may feel** some nausea. (It is possible but not 100 percent sure.)*
*He **might suffer** some swelling from the injection.*
*It **may take** several months to heal up completely.*
*We **might carry out** more tests after we take off the bandages.*

3 PRACTICE

Use these prompts to write sentences with *may* or *might*. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct place.

1 you / a little dizzy after you take your medication (feel)

2 some patients / abdominal pains or sweating (experience)

3 your husband / some side effects but most patients don't (suffer)

4 you / some side effects to this drug (get)

5 we'll monitor him as we / to reduce his dosage (need)

6 it / a few weeks for the wound to heal completely (take)

4 VOCABULARY

Read the extract again. Find words for side effects that match these definitions

1

an illness where the patient frequently passes solid waste, often in a liquid form

2

a condition where the patient cannot pass solid waste from the body

3

when the patient feels sleepy

4

no longer having a desire for food

5

shaking movements in your body that you cannot control