

Comparison of Phosphodiesterase Inhibitors (PDE-5 Inhibitors)

Phosphodiesterase inhibitors (PDE-5) enhance the effect of nitric oxide on the penis. Nitric oxide causes the muscles in the penis to relax improving blood flow into the penis causing an erection. PDE-5s do not cause an erection directly but enhances the blood flow to the penis in response to sexual stimulation. **Warnings:** PDE-5s should not be taken by patients who also take nitrates or have heart problems. Taking PDE-5s with a nitrate medicine can cause a sudden and serious decrease in blood pressure. 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. Erectile dysfunction in younger men may be a sign of coronary artery disease. (One study* published in June 2014 reported that Sildenafil use may be associated with increased risk of developing melanoma. The study is insufficient to alter clinical recommendations and needs further investigation but it is recommended that patients taking sildenafil be aware of these findings. *JAMA Intern Med)

If you have an erection lasting 4 hours (priapism) go to the emergency room. If left untreated you could suffer permanent damage to the penis.

	Viagra (sildenafil)	Levitra (vardenafil) Staxyn (orally dissolving tablet)	Cialis (tadalafil)	Stendra (Avanafil)
Dosages	25mg, 50mg, 100mg	2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg, 20mg Staxyn 10 mg	5mg, 10mg, 20mg	50, 100, 200 mg
Onset of action	30 min	25 min Staxyn 60 min	16-45 min	15-30 min
Dosage	50 mg	10 mg Staxyn 10 mg (dissolves on tongue)	10 mg	50-100 mg
<i>Wait 24 hours between doses for all of the drugs except for Cialis which is 48 hours; Daily Cialis (5 mg) may be taken every 24 hrs.</i>				
Duration	4 to 5 hours	4 to 5 hours	36 hours	6 hrs
Food Interaction	Less effective with high-fat meal	Less effective with high-fat meal;	Food does not interfere with effectiveness	Less effective with high fat meal
Serious side effects (stop taking the drug and call your doctor if you experience any of these)	Sudden vision loss; ringing in ears, or sudden hearing loss; chest pain or heavy feeling, pain spreading to the arm or shoulder, nausea, sweating, general ill feeling; irregular heartbeat; swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet; shortness of breath; vision changes; feeling light-headed, fainting; or penis erection that is painful or lasts 4 hours or longer.	Sudden vision loss; ringing in your ears, or sudden hearing loss; chest pain or heavy feeling, pain spreading to the arm or shoulder, nausea, sweating, general ill feeling; irregular heartbeat; swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet; shortness of breath; vision changes; feeling light-headed, fainting; penis erection that is painful or lasts 4 hours or longer; or seizure (convulsions).	Changes in vision or sudden vision loss; ringing in your ears, or sudden hearing loss; chest pain or heavy feeling, pain spreading to the arm or shoulder, nausea, sweating, general ill feeling; irregular heartbeat; shortness of breath, swelling in your hands or feet; seizure (convulsions); feeling light-headed, fainting; or penis erection that is painful or lasts 4 hours or longer.	Erection lasting four or more hours Changes in color vision Loss of vision Loss of hearing
Less common side effects	warmth or redness in your face, neck, or chest; stuffy nose; headache; memory problems; upset stomach; or back pain.	warmth or redness in your face, neck, or chest; runny or stuffy nose; headache, dizziness; upset stomach; or back pain.	Flushing, stuffy nose, sneezing, or sore throat; headache; memory problems; diarrhea, upset stomach; or muscle pain, back pain.	Headache, Flushing Stuffed up nose, Back pain

Consider checking for interactions with other meds you are taking http://www.drugs.com/drug_interactions.html