

if a 12 week course of a drug reduced the toxin by 60% in 12 weeks, how many weeks would it take to reduce the toxin to near zero

To reduce a toxin by 60% in 12 weeks suggests an exponential decay process, typical for drugs and toxins in the body. If the drug continues to decrease the toxin by 60% every 12 weeks, then after each 12-week period, only 40% of the previous amount remains. This geometric progression leads to a "near zero" toxin level (usually considered less than 1% of the original) over time.

Calculation Approach

Exponential decay can be calculated using the formula:

$$A_t=A_0 imes (0.4)^{t/12}$$

where A_0 is the starting amount, A_t is the amount after t weeks, and each 12 weeks leaves 40% remaining. [1]

To find when $A_t/A_0 < 0.01$ (i.e., less than 1%), solve for t:

$$egin{aligned} 0.01 &= 0.4^{t/12} \ \log(0.01) &= rac{t}{12} \log(0.4) \ rac{\log(0.01)}{\log(0.4)} imes 12 &= t \end{aligned}$$

Plug in the values:

- $\log(0.01) = -2$
- $\log(0.4) \approx -0.398$

$$t=rac{-2}{-0.398} imes 12pprox 60.3 ext{ weeks}$$

Summary Table

Percent Remaining	Weeks Needed
40%	12
16%	24

Percent Remaining	Weeks Needed
6.4%	36
2.56%	48
1.02%	60

Conclusion

It would take about 60 weeks for the toxin to reach near zero (less than 1% of the original) with a drug that reduces it by 60% every 12 weeks, assuming the same rate of exponential decay continues. $\frac{[2]}{[1]}$



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- 2. https://www.omnicalculator.com/health/drug-half-life
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