

Medication Information

Depo Antipsychotics

Medications in this group include

Flupenthixol – Fluanxol[®]
Haloperidol – Haldol[®] LA
Fluphenazine – Modecate[®], Permitil[®], Prolixin[®]
Paliperidone – Invega Sustenna[®]
Pipotiazine – Piportil[®] L4
Risperidone – Risperal Consta[®]
Zuclopenthixol - Clopixol[®]

How this medication is used

This medication treats schizophrenia and related psychotic disorders.
This medication is also used to treat bipolar disorder.

This medication helps control and reduce symptoms such as hallucinations, anxiety, agitation, social withdrawal, loss of appetite, trouble sleeping and aggressive behaviour. This medication may help improve your mood and concentration.

If you are pregnant or thinking about getting pregnant, talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

How to take this medication

This medication is made to slowly enter your body and last for a long time. It is given by injection into a muscle. You need an injection every 2 to 4 weeks. Your doctor adjusts the dose and the time between injections to find the best treatment plan for you. You may have sore muscles where you get the injection.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments while taking this medication.

Do not stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor first.

Tell all health care providers such as nurses, doctors or dentists that you take this medication if you get emergency care or go for surgery.

It is best to carry a Medication Alert card with you.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medication, over-the-counter products, herbal and natural products.

While taking this medication you may notice

- blurred vision
 - nausea
 - muscle stiffness or spasms
 - shakiness
 - weight gain
 - restless, fidgety or unable to sit still
 - constipation
 - breast tenderness
 - dry mouth
 - dizziness
 - drowsiness
 - trouble sleeping
 - drooling
 - changes in menstrual cycle for women
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While taking this medication you may notice (continued)

This medication increases the effects of alcohol making you more sleepy or drowsy. Do not drink alcohol such as wine, beer and liquor while taking this medication.

This medication makes some people drowsy. Until you know how this medication affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.

Many of these effects will go away as your body gets used to this medication.

To avoid weight gain, follow a healthy diet and exercise plan. Talk to your doctor or dietitian for help.

To avoid constipation, eat food high in fibre, drink 6 to 8 glasses of liquid each day and exercise regularly. Food high in fibre includes vegetables, fruit and whole grain products.

To help dry mouth try sucking sugar free candy or chewing sugar free gum. Sucking on ice chips also helps. Good care of your teeth is very important at this time.

To avoid feeling dizzy, get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

Avoid exposure to extreme heat or cold. The medication may reduce your body's ability to control body temperature which could result in overheating or chilling.

If you have drooling and it bothers you, contact your doctor or health care provider. You can take a medication to decrease drooling. Use a towel at night to cover your pillow and absorb extra saliva.

Contact your doctor right away if you notice:

- itchy rash
- trouble breathing
- agitation or confusion
- total body stiffness
- severe weakness, fainting
- trouble urinating
- trouble staying still
- movements of your face, hands and arms that you cannot control
- tremors
- fast or irregular heartbeat

**Contact your pharmacist
if you have any questions about your medication.**