

Patient Information Sheet: Risperidone (marketed as Risperdal)

This is a summary of the most important information about Risperdal (from the FDA's web site).

What is Risperdal?

Risperdal is in a class of medications called atypical antipsychotics. Antipsychotic medicines are used to treat symptoms of schizophrenia that may include hearing voices, seeing things, or sensing things that are not there, mistaken beliefs or unusual suspiciousness.

Risperdal may be used alone or with lithium or divalproex to treat acute manic episodes in adults who have a condition called Bipolar disorder. Bipolar disorder is a mental illness that causes extreme mood swings.

What are The Risks?

The following are the risks and potential side effects of Risperdal therapy. However, this list is not complete.

Increased chance of death in elderly persons. Elderly patients treated with atypical antipsychotics, such as Risperdal, for dementia had a higher chance for death than patients who did not take the medicine. Risperdal is not approved for dementia.

A life-threatening nervous system problem called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS). NMS can cause a high fever, stiff muscles, sweating, a fast or irregular heart beat, change in blood pressure, and confusion. It can affect your kidneys and is a medical emergency.

A movement problem called tardive dyskinesia (TD). Characterized by muscle movements that cannot be stopped.

High blood sugar and diabetes. Patients with diabetes or who have a higher chance for diabetes should have their blood sugar checked.

Strokes have happened in older patients treated for mental illness from dementia. Risperdal is not approved for this use.

Other serious side effects may include low blood pressure seen as dizziness, increased heart beat and possibly fainting, seizures, persistent erection, thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (seen as fever and bruising), increase or decrease in body temperature, and difficulty swallowing.

The most common side effects include anxiety, uncontrolled movements, constipation, nausea, upset stomach, runny nose, rash, vision changes, saliva increase, abdominal pain, inability to control urination, weight gain.

What Should I Tell My Healthcare Professional?

Before you start taking Risperdal, tell your healthcare professional if you:

- ◆ have or had heart problems
- ◆ have an obstruction of your intestines
- ◆ drink alcohol
- ◆ have Reye's syndrome
- ◆ have or had seizures
- ◆ have or had diabetes or increased blood sugar
- ◆ have a brain tumor
- ◆ have a condition called phenylketonuria
- ◆ have or had liver disease
- ◆ are trying to become pregnant, are already pregnant or are breast-feeding

Are There Any Interactions With Drugs or Foods?

Because certain other medications can interact with Risperdal, review all medications you are taking with your healthcare professional, including those that you take without a prescription. Your healthcare professional may have to adjust your dose or watch you more closely if you take the following medications:

- ◆ blood pressure medicines
- ◆ fluoxetine (Luvox) and paroxetine (Paxil)
- ◆ phenytoin (Dilantin)
- ◆ levodopa (Sinemet) and medicines called dopamine agonists
- ◆ carbamazepine
- ◆ phenobarbital
- ◆ rifampin
- ◆ Avoid drinking alcohol while taking Risperdal
- ◆ clozapine

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know?

Dizziness, and sometimes fainting (and/or falls), caused by a drop in blood pressure may happen with Risperdal, especially when you first start taking this medicine or when the dose is increased.

Risperdal may impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills. You should be careful in operating machinery, including automobiles, until you know how Risperdal affects you.

It is important to avoid overheating and dehydration while taking Risperdal, as it may make it harder to lower your body temperature.