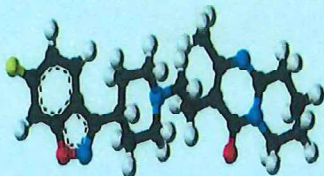


Risperidone (pronounced ris-perry-doan)

What is risperidone?



Risperidone (also known as Risperdal®) is mainly used to help treat the symptoms of psychosis, schizophrenia and mania, and to prevent these symptoms coming back. It is often also used to help the symptoms of ADHD and bipolar mood disorder. It is one of a group of medicines called antipsychotics or neuroleptics. It is made as tablets, melt-in-the-mouth tablets, a syrup and a long-acting injection.

What does risperidone help?

Risperidone can help many symptoms. These can include psychosis (losing touch with reality) which can include hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that aren't there) and delusions (thinking something is true when it isn't). Risperidone can also help aggression and other symptoms.



How and when should I take risperidone?

Swallow the tablets with at least half a glass of water whilst sitting or standing. This is to make sure that they reach the stomach and do not stick in your throat. For the liquid, use a medicine spoon, dropper or oral syringe. For the melt-in-the-mouth tablets, just put them on your tongue and they will dissolve quickly. Taking it at mealtimes may make it easier for you to remember as there is no problem about taking risperidone with or after food. If the label says to take it once a day this is usually best at bedtime as it may make you drowsy at first.

How long will I have to wait before it works?

This will depend on what you are taking it for but the effect usually starts in a week or so, and builds over several weeks.

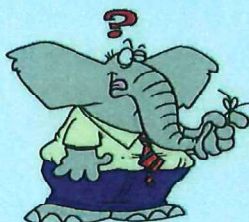


How long will I need to keep taking risperidone for?

This will depend on what you are taking it for. It may be for several months or years.

Can I stop taking risperidone suddenly?

It is better not to do this without talking it over first with other people e.g. relatives or your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. Things normally work out much better if you stop medication in a planned way. Your symptoms can return if treatment is stopped too early. This may occur some weeks or even months after risperidone has been stopped. When the time comes, you should withdraw risperidone by a gradual reduction in the dose over several weeks.



What should I do if I forget to take a dose of risperidone?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember unless it is within about 12 hours of your next dose. If you remember after this just take the next dose as normal. Do not try to catch up by taking two doses at once as you may get more side-effects.

Can I cycle or drive while I am taking risperidone?

You may feel a bit light-headed at first when taking risperidone. Until this wears off, or you know how risperidone affects you, be careful cycling and, if you are old enough, do not drive or operate machinery.



What sort of side-effects might I get with risperidone?

The table below will show you some of the main side effects you might get from risperidone, and what you can do about them. The more common ones are near the top of the list.

	<p>Movement disorders (extra-pyramidal side effects)</p> <p>Having shaky hands. Your eyes and tongue may move on their own. It is not usually dangerous but is a well known side effect. If it is distressing or worries you, tell your doctor. He or she may be able to give you a medicine for it e.g. an anticholinergic.</p>		<p>Restlessness (known as "akathisia")</p> <p>Feeling more on edge. You feel happier when moving around. Try and relax by taking deep breaths. Wear loose fitting clothes. Your doctor may be able to give you a medicine for it e.g. an anticholinergic.</p>
	<p>Feeling dizzy, light-headed or faint, especially when you stand up</p> <p>Do not stand up too quickly. Try and lie down when you feel it coming on. Do not cycle or drive.</p>		<p>Headache</p> <p>If your head is painful, paracetamol usually helps.</p>
	<p>Fatigue</p> <p>You feel tired all the time. This may happen early on in treatment and usually wears off. If you feel like this for more than a week after starting risperidone, tell your doctor. It may be possible to adjust your dose slightly.</p>		<p>Constipation</p> <p>When you want to poop but can't (the opposite of diarrhoea). Make sure you eat enough fibre, cereals or fruit. Make sure you drink enough fluid. If this does not help, ask your doctor or pharmacist for a mild laxative.</p>
	<p>Weight gain</p> <p>Eating more and putting on weight. A diet full of vegetables and fibre may help prevent weight gain.</p>		<p>Blurred vision</p> <p>Things look fuzzy and you can't focus your eyes properly. Don't drive. See your doctor if you are worried.</p>

Do not be worried by this list of side effects. Some people get no side effects at all and others may get some effects that are not listed in this table. If you think you might have a side effect to your medicine, you should ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. If you want to know more, go to our website for links to other websites with more information.

The small print: This leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). You may find lots more on the internet but beware as internet-based information is not always accurate. Do not share medicines with anyone else. Go to our website for fuller answers to these and many other questions e.g. driving, women's health, how it works, doses and interactions, and about the conditions. The "Handy charts" will help you compare the main medicines for each condition, how they work and their side effects.

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