

Paliperidone

Invega • Sustenna / Trinza / Hafyera

Support for clearer thinking, with a treatment schedule that fits your needs.

From Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC's education collection ·

Draft for review · Clinical content has not been revalidated for this website.

TABLETS: SWALLOW WHOLE

INJECTIONS: KEEP YOUR APPOINTMENTS

Your dose and schedule depend on the exact product, kidney function and treatment history.

What it is used for

Used for schizophrenia. Oral tablets and the monthly Sustenna injection also treat schizoaffective disorder, sometimes with other medicines.

Longer-interval injections require stability on specific earlier injections first.

How it works

It changes dopamine and serotonin signaling involved in symptoms. The small diagram shows some drug actions, not a prediction of your response.

It can also affect movement, alertness and prolactin. Side effects deserve attention too.

What to expect over time

FIRST DAYS

Sleep, agitation or side effects may change before other symptoms improve.

OVER THE NEXT WEEKS

Thinking and daily function can improve gradually. Keep track of changes to discuss.

STAYING WELL

Continue visits and health checks even if injections are months apart. A longer interval is not less care.

Taking your medication

Take the prescribed oral dose at the same time daily. Swallow whole with liquid; do not split, chew or crush. Food is optional, but keep your meal routine consistent.

If an oral dose is missed, take it when remembered unless the next is nearly due; then skip. Never double. Ask before restarting after a longer gap.

Only a health professional gives the injections. If a visit is missed, call promptly: you may need a restart plan. Do not substitute leftover tablets.

When to get help

Emergency: breathing trouble, seizure, stroke signs, fever with severe stiffness/confusion, or an erection lasting four hours.

Urgent advice: fainting or an irregular heartbeat, fever/sore throat, new uncontrolled movements, or severe belly pain with vomiting or constipation.

Call promptly: extreme thirst or frequent urination.
Get emergency help for vomiting, confusion, deep/fast breathing or feeling unable to stay safe.

Early side effects

Sleepiness, dizziness, constipation, stiffness or an urge to move can occur; injections may hurt locally. Stand slowly and avoid driving until you know the effects. Tell your team about troublesome effects.

Other effects to discuss

Weight, blood sugar, cholesterol and prolactin may rise. Report sexual changes, missed periods, breast changes or milk discharge without embarrassment. Report new involuntary movements promptly.

What to keep track of

Expect weight, blood-pressure, blood sugar/cholesterol and movement checks. Kidney tests help set the dose. Hormone tests, blood counts or a heart tracing may be needed. Tell your team about changes in sleep, thinking, mood and daily function.

Before you start

Mention kidney disease, heart rhythm problems, fainting, seizures, low white blood cells, diabetes, swallowing problems, bowel narrowing, pregnancy or nursing. Tell the team about any reaction to paliperidone or risperidone. It is not approved for dementia-related psychosis; antipsychotics raise death and stroke risks in those older adults.

Medicines & interactions

Other mental-health medicines

Risperidone and oral paliperidone can add to an injection's effects. Divalproex can raise oral paliperidone levels. Use combinations only as specifically prescribed.

Seizure medicines, antibiotics and supplements

Carbamazepine, rifampin and St. John's wort can lower drug levels. Check before starting or stopping medicines, including nonprescription products.

Alcohol, sedatives and blood-pressure medicines

Avoid alcohol. Sedatives can add sleepiness; some medicines increase dizziness or falls. Ask before taking sleep or allergy remedies.

Heart-rhythm or Parkinson medicines

Some combinations raise heart-rhythm risk or work against each other. Share a complete medication list with every treating clinician.

Everyday tips

Keep a calendar for doses, appointments and lab checks. Tell the clinic early about transportation or refill problems.

Ask for practical support with food, movement and weight changes. Stay hydrated within any medical limits and avoid overheating.

Discuss sexual or period changes directly. Your team can assess the cause and treatment options; do not change the dose yourself.

Plan stopping or switching with your prescriber. Sudden changes can bring symptoms back; injected medicine remains in the body for months.

Your questions, answered

Why is there a tablet in my stool?

The empty extended-release shell can pass through after the medicine is released. This is expected; do not take another dose because you see it.

Can I switch straight to a six-month shot?

No. The exact prior injection dose and time on treatment must qualify. The clinic also checks kidney function and how well the medicine suits you.

What if I become pregnant?

Contact your team without stopping on your own. Discuss benefits, risks, the pregnancy registry and newborn monitoring after late-pregnancy exposure.

Can I breastfeed?

Make an individual plan. The medicine enters milk. Watch for unusual sleepiness, poor feeding or growth, jitteriness or abnormal movements in the baby.

Storage & safety

Keep tablets at room temperature, away from children and pets. Do not share. For an extra dose call Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222; call 911 for collapse, seizure, breathing trouble or inability to wake.

A final reminder

Injection schedules require the exact product protocol.

About this information

For general information only; not a substitute for individualized medical advice. This sheet does not cover every risk or interaction. Ask your prescriber or pharmacist before changing how you take this medication.

Sources

1. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=7b8e5b26-b9e4-4704-921b-3c3c0d159916>
 2. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=1af14e42-951d-414d-8564-5d5fce138554>
 3. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=c39e65d7-fa44-4e4c-8b12-a654d3ed0eae>
 4. <https://www.jnjlabels.com/package-insert/product-monograph/prescribing-information/INVEGA%20HAFYERA-pi.pdf>
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Educational inclusion does not mean this medication or its indications are treated at this practice. Review the guide for your exact product with your prescriber or pharmacist.

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