

Sertindole

Serdolect · Non-US medicine

A treatment for schizophrenia that needs a clear plan for heart checks.

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

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

ECG CHECKS ARE ESSENTIAL

CHECK BEFORE ADDING ANY MEDICINE

Not FDA-approved. This general guide follows non-US product information; use your local prescriber's instructions.

What it is used for

Used for schizophrenia when another antipsychotic was not tolerated, after weighing its heart-rhythm risks.

It is not a medicine for immediate calming in an emergency. Ask what improvements your team is looking for.

How it works

It changes dopamine and serotonin signaling involved in thinking and perception.

The diagram is a simplified guide, not a prediction of benefit. It does not show every possible side effect.

What to expect over time

STARTING SLOWLY

Your dose is raised gradually. Dizziness can occur early.

OVER THE NEXT WEEKS

Benefits build over time. Do not speed up the dose increases yourself.

CONTINUING SAFELY

Keep heart checks and follow-up even when you feel well.

Taking your medication

Take the prescribed dose once daily, at the same time, with or without food. Swallow tablets whole with water.

Your prescriber starts low and raises the dose gradually. Never add extra tablets to get a faster effect.

Missed dose? Do not double. Contact your team for instructions. After a week or more off, do not restart the old dose; you may need a new ECG and slow restart.

! When to get help

Emergency: fainting, a racing/irregular heartbeat with dizziness, chest pain, breathing trouble, seizure or stroke signs.

Emergency: high fever with severe stiffness/confusion, or a painful swollen leg with sudden chest pain or breathlessness.

Call promptly: new uncontrolled movements, persistent vomiting/diarrhea, extreme thirst or frequent urination. Get emergency help if you cannot stay safe.

Early side effects

Stuffy nose, dry mouth, dizziness, tingling or swollen feet may occur. Stand slowly. Report persistent swelling or troublesome dizziness. New breathlessness needs prompt assessment. Avoid driving until you know how you are affected.

Other effects to discuss

Weight and blood sugar can rise. Sexual changes, including difficulty with erections or ejaculation, can occur. Report breast discharge, changes in periods and involuntary movements too. You do not have to quietly put up with these.

What to keep track of

Expect an ECG before treatment, around three weeks or at 16 mg/day, then every three months and around relevant dose changes. Blood tests, weight, blood-pressure and movement checks matter too. Feeling fine does not replace testing.

Before you start

Mention heart disease, fainting, a slow pulse, family long-QT history, liver problems, seizures, Parkinson disease, diabetes, clot history, pregnancy or nursing. Low potassium/magnesium must be corrected first. Tell your team about rare inherited sugar-intolerance disorders; these tablets contain lactose. It is not recommended for children or for dementia-related behavior problems.

Medicines & interactions

Heart-rhythm and some psychiatric medicines

Some combinations are prohibited, including certain rhythm drugs, antipsychotics and lithium. Have the complete list checked.

Antibiotics, antifungals and other treatments

Certain antibiotics, antifungals, HIV medicines, verapamil, diltiazem and cimetidine must not be combined. Check first.

Antidepressants and seizure medicines

Fluoxetine/paroxetine can raise levels; some seizure medicines and rifampin lower them. Changes may need dose adjustment and ECGs.

Water tablets, alcohol and other remedies

Diuretics can lower potassium. Avoid alcohol; ask before sleep, allergy or cold remedies. Share supplements and nonprescription products too.

Everyday tips

Book the next ECG before leaving the clinic. Tell your team early if getting to appointments is difficult.

Report vomiting or diarrhea promptly; they can disturb the blood salts that help keep your heartbeat steady.

Ask for support with eating, activity and weight. Avoid overheating and dehydration within your medical fluid limits.

Discuss stopping or switching in advance. Sudden stopping can cause nausea, sweating, poor sleep and return of symptoms.

Your questions, answered

Why so many heart checks?

This medicine can change the heart's electrical timing without obvious symptoms. Regular ECGs help your team decide whether treatment remains safe.

What about sexual side effects?

Tell your prescriber, even if the conversation feels awkward. There may be treatment options; do not add a remedy without checking interactions.

What if I become pregnant?

Contact your team promptly for a safer treatment plan. This medicine is not recommended in pregnancy; do not suddenly stop without their help.

Can I breastfeed?

Milk exposure is expected but not well studied. If this treatment is essential, you may need to stop breastfeeding. Discuss medicine and feeding options together.

Storage & safety

Keep tablets in the original pack to protect from light, away from children and pets. Never share. After an extra dose, contact your local poison service or emergency department immediately, even if you feel well.

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://www.fachinfo.de/fi/pdf/009712>
 2. https://cima.aemps.es/cima/dochtml/p/61585/Prospecto_61585.html
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