

Zuclopenthixol

Clopixol / Clopixol-Acuphase

One medicine, different preparations. Know which one is in your treatment plan.

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

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

UK PRODUCT REFERENCE

TABLETS, ACETATE AND DEPOT DIFFER

Not FDA approved. This guide uses UK information; doses and schedules depend on the exact preparation.

What it is used for

Zuclopenthixol treats schizophrenia and other psychoses. It may help reduce voices, suspicious thoughts and severe distress.

Tablets and long-acting depot support ongoing treatment. Acuphase is a short-term injection for an acute episode, including mania.

How it works

It blocks some dopamine signaling. That can reduce psychotic symptoms, but can also cause movement or hormone effects.

The target diagram cannot predict your response. Different preparations release the medicine over different lengths of time.

What to expect over time

TABLETS

Benefit can begin early, but fuller improvement may take several weeks.

ACUPHASE

A short-term injection acting over days, not a long-term depot schedule.

DEPOT

Releases medicine over weeks. Keep injection appointments and report side effects early.

Taking your medication

Take tablets with water, with or without food. Follow your own dose and timing; do not add extra tablets.

A clinician gives injections. Ask which preparation you receive and when the next dose is due.

Avoid alcohol. Do not drive with blurred vision or until you know how alert and steady you feel.

When to get help

Emergency help: collapse, seizure, severe breathing/swallowing trouble, or fever with stiff muscles and confusion.

Emergency help: chest pain with breathlessness, stroke symptoms, or an erection lasting four hours.

Urgent advice: a swollen painful leg, fainting/palpitations, new spasms or mouth movements, fever/sore throat, jaundice or severe constipation.

Early side effects

Sleepiness, dizziness, dry mouth, constipation, blurry vision or restlessness can occur. Stand up slowly and report falls or swallowing problems.

Other effects to discuss

Tell your team about stiffness, tremor, weight gain, milk production, changed periods or sexual problems. Some abnormal movements can persist.

What to keep track of

Expect checks of movement, weight, blood pressure and blood tests, with heart checks when needed. Tell your team if you feel overly sleepy or cannot sit still. Depot effects can last after the last injection.

Before you start

Mention heart rhythm or clot problems, fainting, low body salts, seizures, liver/kidney disease, breathing problems, diabetes, glaucoma, urinary difficulty, low blood counts and pregnancy or nursing. Older adults with dementia have extra risks; this medicine is not licensed for dementia-related behavior problems.

Medicines & interactions

Heart medicines and other antipsychotics

Some combinations increase dangerous rhythm risks. Have every new medicine checked, including antibiotics.

Alcohol, sleep aids and opioids

These can add sleepiness, falls or breathing problems. Do not combine without a specific safe plan.

Lithium and other prescriptions

Lithium can add serious toxicity. Review antidepressants, blood thinners, blood-pressure drugs and Parkinson medicines.

Remedies and procedures

Some allergy, bladder and nausea medicines worsen side effects. Tell your dental, surgery and anesthesia teams what you take.

Everyday tips

Keep a record of the exact injection name, date, dose and next appointment. Call the clinic if you may miss it.

Track symptoms and daily activities that matter to you. Tell your team when taking treatment is difficult.

Avoid overheating and protect your skin from sun. Ask for a hot-weather plan.

Report new swallowing difficulty, repeated choking or a major change in alertness without waiting for routine follow-up.

Your questions, answered

What if I miss tablets or an injection?

For a missed tablet, the UK leaflet says take the next dose at the usual time; do not double. Call the clinic about a missed injection.

Can I stop if I feel better?

Plan changes with your prescriber. Tablets usually need gradual reduction. A depot already given continues to release medicine.

What about pregnancy or nursing?

Discuss treatment and feeding with your team. Leaflets and prescribing information differ on breastfeeding; get an individual plan.

What if I receive too much?

Seek urgent medical or poison-center advice immediately, even if you feel well. Call emergency services for collapse, seizure or breathing trouble.

Storage & safety

Keep medicine away from children and follow the pack's storage instructions. Keep 2 mg tablets in their original container and injection ampoules in their outer carton to protect from light. Ask the pharmacy about disposal; never share medicine.

A final reminder

Tablets, Acuphase and depot have different dose schedules. Read the leaflet for your exact preparation. Existing artwork and its evidence limits are retained.

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.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/11789/pil>
 2. <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/993/pil>
 3. <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/6414/pil>
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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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