



Flupentixol Decanoate Injection

(Pronounced flu-pen-tix-ol)

(Also known as Depixol)

Why has flupentixol decanoate been prescribed?

Flupentixol decanoate is an antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia and other similar conditions.

What are the benefits of taking flupentixol decanoate?

Antipsychotics are effective in reducing the symptoms of psychosis. They also shorten the time to recovery and help prevent relapses. The main advantage of a long-acting injection (or depot) is that there is no need to remember to take tablets daily. There is also less fluctuation in the amount of the drug in the body and as such side effects may be less than with the tablets or oral formulations.

Are there any precautions with flupentixol decanoate?

Flupentixol decanoate is suitable for most people. As with all medicines, however, there are precautions. Your doctor will usually check that it is safe to prescribe flupentixol decanoate, but let your doctor know if any of the following apply to you, as extra care may be needed.

- If you suffer from liver, kidney, heart, or prostate problems or if you suffer glaucoma.
- If you are taking any other medication, especially anticonvulsants, antibiotics, blood pressure tablets and medicines for Parkinson's Disease. Also, tell your doctor if you buy any medicine 'over the counter' from a pharmacy or supermarket. Please also tell your doctor if you take any alternative or complementary medicine such as Chinese herbal medicines.
- If you are pregnant, breast feeding, or wish to become pregnant.

What is the usual dose of flupentixol decanoate?

The usual dose can vary from 20mg to 400mg a week. Flupentixol decanoate is usually given every 2 weeks but may be given monthly. It may take a few months to get to the dose that is most suitable.

How should flupentixol decanoate be taken?

A small dose of 20mg is injected to test how your body responds. You will then be given a regular injection which is administered by deep intramuscular injection into the muscle in the thigh or bottom. This will usually be given to you by a nurse on a ward, clinic or GP surgery.

What form does flupentixol decanoate come in?

Flupentixol decanoate comes as a long acting injection in strengths of 20mg per ml in 1ml and 2ml ampoule sizes, in 100mg per ml in 0.5ml and 1ml ampoule sizes and 200mg per ml in a 1ml ampoule size. Flupentixol tablets are also available.

What should be done if a dose is missed?

The next injection should be given as soon as possible. This may mean making an extra appointment at the clinic or hospital.

What will happen when flupentixol decanoate is first taken?

Flupentixol decanoate, like many medicines, does not work straight away. For example, it may take several days or even weeks for some symptoms to improve. You may remain on antipsychotic tablets for some weeks after the injection is first given. This is because the

injection is released slowly into your body and takes some weeks to be effective. Many people do not experience any side effects. However some people may experience side effects. We have listed potential side effects in the table below, whether or not they are likely to be short or long-term and what measures can be taken is also described. There are other possible side effects – we have listed only the most important ones. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are worried about anything else that you think might be a side effect. Further information on side effects is available in the official manufacturer's leaflet.

Reporting side effects

The 'Yellow Card' scheme encourages patients to report any side effects that they feel may be caused by their medication. Ask your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse for the forms if you wish to report any side effects. Alternatively, telephone 0808 100 3352 or go to www.mhra.gov.uk.

Is flupentixol decanoate addictive?

No, flupentixol decanoate is not addictive. However, if you stop receiving the medicine suddenly, you may experience unpleasant physical feelings.

What about alcohol?

It is recommended that people receiving flupentixol decanoate should not drink alcohol. This is because both antipsychotics and alcohol can cause drowsiness. If the two are taken together, severe drowsiness can result. This can lead to falls and accidents. As well as this, drinking alcohol may make psychosis worse. However, once people are used to receiving medication, then *very small amounts* of alcohol may not be harmful. It pays to be very careful, because alcohol affects people in different ways, especially when they are receiving medication. Never drink alcohol and drive. Discuss any concerns you may have with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Is it OK to stop taking flupentixol decanoate when symptoms go away?

No. If you stop receiving flupentixol decanoate your original symptoms are very likely to return. Most people need to be on flupentixol decanoate for quite a long time, sometimes years. You should always discuss any plans you have to reduce or stop any of your prescribed medicines with your doctor.

Are there any alternatives to flupentixol decanoate?

Yes, there are alternatives available. Overall, antipsychotics have broadly similar therapeutic effects, except for clozapine which is effective when other antipsychotics have failed. Antipsychotics differ in their side effects. With the range of medicines now available, a suitable and acceptable antipsychotic can usually be found for everyone.

Summary of side effects



Movements disorders – Common (trembling, muscle spasms)

What can be done about it?

Another medicine may be prescribed to treat this. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.



Menstrual changes (women) – Common – periods may stop

What can be done about it?

Any changes should be reported to your prescriber. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.

Other (less common) side effects	How common is it and what can be done about it?
Dry mouth	Uncommon This tends to wear off. Sugar-free boiled sweets, chewing gum or eating citrus fruits may help. If this persists report it to your prescriber.
Constipation	Uncommon Eat lots of fibre - fruit and vegetables are good sources. Drink plenty of fluids. Your prescriber may prescribe a laxative..
Impotence (men) – difficulty in getting an erection	Uncommon Any changes should be reported to your prescriber. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.
Breast growth and milk production (men & women)	Uncommon Any changes should be reported to your prescriber. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.
Drowsiness	Uncommon This tends to wear off over time. If this persists tell your doctor.
Abnormal movements (also known as tardive dyskinesia)	Rare This occurs only after long term treatment. It usually begins with unusual movements of the mouth and tongue. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which is less likely to cause this side effect. Symptoms may go away when switched to another medicine.

Very common = almost everyone affected
Common = many people affected
Uncommon = some people affected

Rare = few people affected
Very rare = very few or no one affected

Disclaimer

This leaflet does not replace the official manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet.

For more information, visit www.slam.nhs.uk/meds or speak to a health care professional.

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