



Risperidone Injection

(Pronounced riss-perri-done)

(Also known as risperidone depot and Risperdal Consta™)

Why has risperidone injection been prescribed?

Risperidone injection is an antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia and other similar conditions.

What are the benefits of taking risperidone injection?

Antipsychotics are effective in reducing the symptoms of psychosis. They also shorten the time to recovery and help prevent relapses.

Are there any precautions with risperidone injection?

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

- If you have Parkinson's Disease or suffer from liver or kidney trouble.
- if you are taking any other medication, especially furosemide, antidepressants and anticonvulsants. Also, tell your prescriber if you buy any medicine 'over the counter' from a pharmacy or supermarket. Please also tell your prescriber 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 risperidone injection?

The starting dose is usually 25mg every two weeks. This is sometimes increased slowly over a few months. The usual dose of risperidone injection may be between 25mg and 50mg every two weeks. It may take a few months to get to the dose that is most suitable.

How should risperidone injection be taken?

Risperidone injection is given by intramuscular injection every two weeks.

What form does risperidone injection come in?

Risperidone is available as tablets, dispersible tablets, liquid and long acting injection. The injection is available as 25mg, 37.5mg and 50mg.

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 risperidone injection is first taken?

Risperidone injection, like many medicines, does not work straight away. For example, it may take several days or even weeks for some symptoms to improve. Most people take tablets for the first few weeks of treatment with risperidone injection. This is because risperidone is only released from the injection two to three weeks after administration. Once released, risperidone stays in the body for around two weeks. Many people do not experience any side effects. However some people may experience some 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 risperidone injection addictive?

No, risperidone injection 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 risperidone injection 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 risperidone injection when symptoms go away?

No. If you stop receiving risperidone injection, your original symptoms are very likely to return. Most people need to be on risperidone 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 prescriber.

Are there any alternatives to risperidone injection?

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



Insomnia - Common

What can be done about it?

This tends to wear off. Sometimes, sleeping tablets are prescribed.



Agitation or anxiety – Common (also known as akathisia)

What can be done about it?

This tends to wear off. Sometimes, medication for anxiety is prescribed. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.



Headache - Common

What can be done about it?

This tends to wear off. Take paracetamol if necessary. Report to your prescriber if symptoms persist for more than a few days.



Menstrual changes (women) – Common
(periods may stop)

What can be done about it?

Any changes should be reported to the 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?
Movement disorders – trembling, muscle spasms	Uncommon Another medicine may be prescribed to treat this. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.
Weight gain	Uncommon Some people put on a few pounds Try to eat healthily and take exercise.
Impotence (men) – difficulty in getting an erection	Uncommon Any changes should be reported to the prescriber. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.
Breast growth and milk production (men and women)	Rare Any changes should be reported to the prescriber. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.
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.
Diabetes	Very rare It may be necessary to switch to another medicine.
Priapism (persistent and often painful erection which lasts for several hours)	Very rare Priapism is a medical emergency and you should seek medical help immediately.

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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