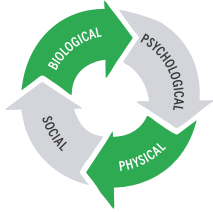


Paliperidone



There is a lot of money available for research on medications, some of it from pharmaceutical companies and some from independent researchers who are not sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, so there is a lot of research into medications. Remember, more thumbs up just means that more people have done research that shows that this approach does work.

What is it?

Paliperidone is a medicine that is very similar to Risperidone (see the section on Risperidone in this booklet). It's licensed for over-18s and it's available in tablets, and injection although it's usually only prescribed as an injection. The normal daily amount is 6mg but the range is from 3mg up to 12mg.

What does it aim to do?

Paliperidone can reduce symptoms such as unusual and distressing thoughts and experiences (hearing and seeing things or having strong upsetting beliefs).

What are the side-effects of Paliperidone?

In adults very common side-effects include sleep problems (tiredness/ sedation or not sleeping) and headaches. It also causes movement problems (shakiness, muscle stiffness, rigid, reduced movements, and restlessness) and more hormonal problems than some other medications.

Less common side-effects (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 100 people) include metabolism problems, infections, cold and flu symptoms including having a fever, joint, back and tooth pain, having high blood pressure and a faster or slower heart rate, having an upset stomach, indigestion or not being able to poo, feeling anxious, dizzy, depressed, agitated or tired.

Sometimes the site where you have the injection can become itchy, sore or hard. Many side-effects are related to the amount of Paliperidone you take, so they are very mild with low doses, and stop if Paliperidone is stopped.

How can I get this treatment?

Paliperidone can only be prescribed by your GP or mental health team. You can't buy it over the counter.



“ Paliperidone injection is one of the newer antipsychotics available and particularly useful for those who would rather have a monthly injection than take tablets every day. ”

Dr Richard Whale, EIP Consultant Psychiatrist

“ I did find it hard to think when I took Paliperidone, but I spoke to the doctor and he changed it to the injection rather than tablets and this has really helped. ”

Tara, 23

“ It’s really good not to have to remember to take tablets every day, although I don’t like having to go for injections once a month as I don’t like needles. I had some side-effects, so I spoke to the doctor and I’ve changed medication. ”

James, 24