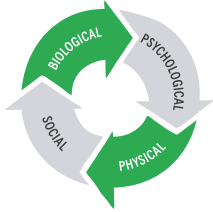


# Risperidone



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?

Risperidone is a medicine that's licensed for over-18s but it can also be used in under-18s. It's available in syrup, tablets, melt-in-the mouth tablets and in injection form.

The normal daily dose is between 4–6mg per day but the maximum dose is up to 10mg for tablets.

### What does it aim to do?

Risperidone 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 Risperidone?


In adults, very common side-effects are movement problems (including shakiness, spasms, and problems controlling movements, muscle stiffness and tension, slowness and restlessness), too much saliva (spit), headaches and problems with sleepiness.

As with Paliperidone it can cause hormonal changes more than some other medicines. Less common side-effects (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 100 people) include cold and flu like symptoms, fever, feeling sick and having stomach ache, breathing difficulties, pneumonia, faster heart rate, joint, back and chest pain, toothache, speech and eye/ eyesight problems or facial numbness (tell your doctor if this happens!), feeling depressed, anxious, agitated, weak, dizzy, having changes in appetite and putting on weight, having skin rashes, not being able to poo or having runny poo, weeing when you don't mean to, having a dry mouth, ear infection, nose bleed, swollen hands or feet, indigestion, high blood pressure and problems with metabolism.

Many side-effects are related to the amount of Risperidone you take, so they are very mild with low doses, and stop if Risperidone is stopped.

### How can I get this treatment?

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



“ Risperidone is an effective antipsychotic that we regularly prescribe. It’s often well tolerated and we are able to prescribe low doses which means minimal experiences of side-effects for our patients. It can be associated with hormone changes which we check through regular health checks. It’s one of the few antipsychotics that’s used regularly in children and adolescents. ”

Dr Gail Kavanagh, Early Intervention Psychiatrist

“ Risperidone keeps me cool, calm and relaxed but I do find it makes my eyes a bit blurry. I do get a nice long sleep! ”

Gemma, 24

“ I took a very low dose of Risperidone and had no side-effects at all. My symptoms stopped, it did its job! ”

Will, 19

“ It made me feel like a zombie, and it makes you want to eat all the time. It can affect your sex life because it makes you feel like you’re only half there, ”

Matt, 29