

**Paliperidone
(Invega[®]) and
Paliperidone
Palmitate
(Invega Sustenna[®],
Invega Trinza[®])**

Paliperidone (Invega®) and Paliperidone Palmitate (Invega Sustenna®, Invega Trinza®)

Paliperidone is most often used to treat psychosis or mania.

How do I take paliperidone?

- › Paliperidone is taken orally (by mouth) as an extended-release tablet. This is taken every day.
- › Long-acting paliperidone is injected into the muscle of your upper arm or your hip using a needle. These injections are usually given every 4 weeks.

What symptoms will paliperidone help with?

- Paliperidone treats different symptoms depending on why it is being used. Symptoms will be different for each person.
- Symptoms of **psychosis** may include:
 - › Hallucinations (hearing, seeing, or sensing things that are not real)
 - › Delusions (believing things that are not true, like thinking that someone is after you or that you have special powers)
 - › Trouble thinking clearly

- › Getting frustrated or agitated more than usual
- › Losing interest in yourself or other people
- Symptoms of **mania** may include:
 - › Not being able to focus
 - › More talkative
 - › More active
 - › More irritable
 - › Being easily distracted
 - › Feeling like you need less sleep
 - › Feeling important, powerful, or like nothing can hurt you
 - › Making choices without thinking them through

How quickly will paliperidone work?

- Some symptoms improve within hours to days. Other symptoms get better over weeks to months.
- Frustration and agitation improve quickly.
- Your sleep and mood should improve within the first week or so.
- Your thoughts should slowly get clearer and more organized over 2 to 8 weeks.
- It may take months for interest in yourself and the things you enjoy to come back.

How long should I take paliperidone?

- This depends on why you are taking paliperidone and how well it works for you.
- **Do not stop taking paliperidone without talking to your health care provider.** Your symptoms may come back if you stop taking it.

What are the possible side effects?

- Many side effects go away over time. Other side effects only start after taking paliperidone for a longer time.
- **Talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about side effects before and during your treatment.**
- **Common side effects are:**
 - › Headache
 - › Trouble sleeping
 - › Agitation
 - › Restlessness
 - › Weight gain
 - › Sexual dysfunction (less interest in sex or problems having sex)
 - › Stuffy or runny nose

- **Less common side effects are:**
 - › Lack of energy
 - › Constipation
 - › Dizziness when you stand up
 - › Fast heartbeat
 - › Muscle stiffness or spasms
 - › Slow movements
 - › Tremors (shaking)
 - › Changes in your cholesterol levels
 - › Breast or chest changes (tenderness, swelling, or leaking milk)
 - › Changes in your period

**What are your questions?
Please ask. We are here to help you.**

Go to the nearest Emergency Department right away if you have any of these rare, serious side effects:

- › Rash
- › Very bad headache
- › Fainting
- › Breathing fast
- › Fever (temperature above 38 °C or 100.4 °F)
- › Confusion
- › Sudden weakness or numbness
- › Sore mouth, gums, or throat
- › Going more than 2 days without peeing
- › Changes in your bowel habits (for example, you have not pooped in 2 days and you usually go every day)
- › Muscle pain
- › Muscle movements you cannot control (usually in your tongue and lips)
- › Trouble seeing or speaking

What else do I need to know about paliperidone?

- **Do not** split, crush, or chew paliperidone tablets.

- Paliperidone tablets do not dissolve after releasing the drug in your body. You may see the empty tablet shell in your bowel movement. This is common.
- When you start taking the long-acting injections, you will usually get 1 dose a week for the first 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, you will get 1 dose every month. You may need to take tablets for a short time until the injection starts to work.
- If this medication has helped your symptoms for at least 4 months of injections, you may be considered for the injection given every 3 months.
- Paliperidone may affect your body's ability to control your temperature. If this happens, avoid hot and humid places and talk to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.
- Paliperidone may increase the effects of alcohol.
- Tell your health care provider if you think you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding or chestfeeding.
- Check with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist before starting any new medication, including over-the-counter and any natural health products you may be using.

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find this pamphlet and all our patient resources here:
<https://library.nshealth.ca/Patients-Guides>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Prepared by: Pharmacy Services, QE II
Designed by: Nova Scotia Health Library Services

QV85-1938 © December 2023 Nova Scotia Health Authority
The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.