

Risperidone (Risperdal[®], Risperdal Consta[®])

Risperidone is most often used to treat psychosis or mania. It is also used to treat some symptoms of dementia.

How do I take risperidone?

- Orally (by mouth) in a tablet or as a liquid (taken daily)
- Long-acting injections given by needle into a muscle in the upper part of your arm or side of your hip (usually given every 2 weeks)

How does risperidone help?

- Risperidone treats different symptoms, depending on why it is being used. Symptoms will be different for each person.
- Symptoms of **psychosis** may include:
 - › Hearing, seeing, or sensing things that are not real (hallucinations)
 - › Believing things that are not true, like thinking that someone is after you or that you have special powers (delusions)
 - › Trouble thinking clearly
 - › Getting frustrated or agitated more easily than usual
 - › Loss of interest in yourself or others
 - › Becoming withdrawn or staying away from others
 - › Intense fear or worries
- Symptoms of **mania** may include:
 - › Racing thoughts
 - › Feeling like you need less sleep
 - › More talkative
 - › More active
 - › More irritable
 - › Being easily distracted
 - › Making poor choices
 - › Feeling important, powerful, or like nothing can hurt you

There may be other reasons risperidone was prescribed. Talk to your doctor or nurse to learn why it was prescribed for you.

How quickly will risperidone work?

- Many symptoms improve quickly (hours to days) while others get better over time (weeks to months).
- Frustration and agitation may get better quickly.
- Your sleep and mood should get better within the first week or so.
- Slowly over 2 to 8 weeks, your thoughts will become more clear and organized.
- It can take months for interest in yourself and things you used to enjoy to come back.
- When you start receiving the long-acting injection, you may be asked to keep taking the tablets for a few weeks until the injection starts to take effect.

How long should I take risperidone?

- This will depend on why you are taking risperidone and how well it works for you.
- Risperidone helps to treat your symptoms and keeps them from coming back.

- **Do not stop taking risperidone without talking to your doctor.** Your symptoms may come back if you stop taking it.

What are the possible side effects of risperidone?

- Some side effects start early and go away over time. Other side effects only start after taking risperidone for some time. Some side effects are mild and others are more serious.
- **Talk about side effects with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist before you start treatment and regularly while taking this medication.**
- **Common side effects:**
 - › Sleepiness or trouble sleeping, headache, restlessness, dizziness, muscle stiffness, tremors (shaking), agitation, weight gain, higher cholesterol and/or blood sugar, sexual dysfunction, fast heartbeat, leaking of milk from breasts (more common in females), stuffy or runny nose
- **Less common side effects:**
 - › Constipation (not able to poop), dry mouth, blurry vision, confusion, muscle spasms, breast tenderness and/or swelling (more common in females), changes in menstrual cycle (your period)

If you have any of the following rare but serious symptoms, call your primary health care provider (regular doctor or nurse practitioner) or 811:

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| › Rash | › Sudden weakness | › Sudden numbness |
| › Very bad headache | › Sore mouth, gums, or throat | › Loss of muscle control (often in your tongue and lips) |
| › Fainting | › Not peeing or pooping for more than a couple of days | › Trouble seeing and/or talking |
| › Fast breathing | | |
| › Fever (temperature above 38° C/100.4° F) | › Muscle pain | |
| › Confusion | | |

If you cannot reach your regular doctor, call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Department right away.

What else do I need to know about risperidone?

- Risperidone may increase the effects of alcohol (like drowsiness, dizziness, and impaired thinking), which can be dangerous.
- Risperidone may affect your body's ability to control body temperature. If this happens, avoid hot, humid places and talk to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.
- Tell your doctor if you think you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications. This includes medications you buy at the drugstore and any natural health products or supplements you may be using.

The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only. The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider. If you have ANY questions about your medication, please ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.