

Paliperidone (Invega®); Paliperidone Palmitate (Invega Sustenna®)

Paliperidone is most often used to treat psychosis. It may also be used to treat mania or depression.

What forms does paliperidone come in?

- › Extended release tablets – taken every day
- › Long-acting injections – usually given once every 4 weeks

What symptoms will paliperidone help with?

- Paliperidone treats different symptoms depending on why it is being used. Symptoms will be different from person to person.
- Symptoms of **psychosis** may include:
 - › hearing or seeing things that are not real (hallucinations); false beliefs, such as 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.
- Symptoms of **mania** may include:
 - › feeling like you need less sleep; being more talkative, more active, or more irritable; being easily distracted; feeling important, powerful, or like nothing can hurt you.
- Symptoms of **depression** may include:
 - › low mood; feeling sad, hopeless, and/or helpless; changes in your usual sleep pattern; loss of interest in things you usually enjoy; changes in your appetite; loss of energy and/or concentration, thoughts of suicide.
- There may be other reasons paliperidone was chosen for you. Talk to your doctor or nurse about why it was prescribed for you.

How quickly will paliperidone work?

- Many symptoms improve quickly (hours to days) and others improve over time (weeks to months).
- Frustration and agitation may improve quickly.
- Your sleep and mood should improve within the first week or so.
- Slowly over 2–8 weeks, your thoughts should get more clear and organized.
- Increased interest in yourself and things you enjoy is often slower, sometimes taking months.

How long should I take paliperidone?

- This depends on why you are taking paliperidone and how well it works for you. Long term use is common when used to treat psychosis.
- Paliperidone helps to treat your symptoms and to keep them from coming back.
- Stopping paliperidone should be done with the support and advice of your doctor. You may become unwell again if you stop taking it.

What are the possible side effects of paliperidone?

- Some side effects start early and go away with time. Other side effects only start after taking paliperidone for some time.
- Some side effects are mild and others are more serious.
- **Please talk about side effects with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist regularly, including at the start of your treatment and throughout.**
 - › **Common:** headache, trouble sleeping, agitation, restlessness, weight gain, sexual dysfunction, stuffy or runny nose
 - › **Less common:** feeling sleepy, lack of energy, constipation, dizziness when you stand up, fast heartbeat, muscle stiffness, tremors, slow movements, muscle spasms, changes in cholesterol, breast changes (tenderness, swelling, and/or leaking of milk; this is more common in women), changes in your period
 - › **RARE/SERIOUS – GET HELP RIGHT AWAY if you have any of these side effects:** rash, very bad headache, fainting, breathing fast, fever, confusion, sudden weakness; sore mouth, gums, or throat; going more than a couple of days without peeing or having a bowel movement, muscle pain, muscle movements you can't control (usually in your tongue and lips), sudden numbness, trouble seeing and/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 notice the empty tablet shell in your bowel movement. This is normal.
- When you start taking the long-acting injections, you will usually get 2 doses one week apart, and then monthly dosing after. Sometimes you may keep taking the tablet for a short time until the injection starts to work.
- Paliperidone may increase the effects of alcohol.
- Paliperidone may affect your body's ability to control body temperature. If this happens, avoid hot and 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 medicines, including ones you buy at the drugstore and any natural health products 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.