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PSYCHIATRY

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PATIENT EDUCATION

Iloperidone

Fanapt / Oral tablets

A guide for adults taking iloperidone.
Follow the directions on your prescription and your provider's recommendations.

TWICE DAILY | START LOW / FOLLOW YOUR SCHEDULE

Formulations: Tablets are generally taken twice daily. Treatment must be increased gradually to reduce low-blood-pressure risk.

What it is used for

Iloperidone treats schizophrenia and acute manic or mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder in adults. It is not specifically approved for bipolar depression.

How it works

It blocks dopamine and serotonin receptors. Alpha-1 receptor effects also relax blood vessels, which can cause dizziness or fainting during dose increases.

What to expect over time

Some symptoms improve earlier than others. Changes in hallucinations, mood, or organized thinking often develop over several weeks. Track practical goals, such as regular sleep and daily activities, and report side effects or limited benefit.

Taking your medication

- Follow the starting schedule exactly; do not speed up dose increases.
- Take with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take it when you remember unless it is almost time for the next dose. Then skip it. Do not double a dose.
- Contact your provider before restarting after more than three days off; the initial titration is generally needed again.

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Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Dizziness or low blood pressure when standing
- Sleepiness or fatigue
- Dry mouth, nasal congestion, or weight gain
- A faster heartbeat

Keeping track of treatment

Some side effects resolve with time; others may require a change of medication. Discuss persistent or bothersome side effects with your provider.

Expect periodic checks of weight, blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and movement symptoms. Some changes, such as higher blood sugar, may occur before you feel different.

Report new mouth, tongue, face, or limb movements. Tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder that can persist after medication is stopped.

Your provider may check an ECG and electrolytes because iloperidone can prolong the QT interval. Report palpitations or fainting promptly.

If you take too much

For a suspected overdose, call Poison Control at **1-800-222-1222** immediately, even if you feel well. Call 911 for a seizure, collapse, trouble breathing, or inability to wake.

Before you start

Discuss diabetes, heart-rhythm problems, fainting, seizures, low blood counts, swallowing difficulties, and kidney or liver disease. Antipsychotics increase the risk of death in older adults with dementia-related psychosis.

Discuss pregnancy, pregnancy plans, and breastfeeding with your provider. Treatment decisions should consider both the medication and the condition being treated.

Medicines and interactions

Review all your medications with your provider, including over-the-counter medicines and supplements. Have new medications checked before taking them.

Avoid unreviewed QT-prolonging medicines. Strong CYP2D6 or CYP3A inhibitors may require a lower iloperidone dose.

Alcohol, sedatives, and blood-pressure medicines can worsen dizziness, falls, or impaired alertness.

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Living with your treatment

When to get help

Emergency symptoms. Get emergency care for fever with severe muscle stiffness and confusion, a seizure, fainting with an irregular heartbeat, or trouble breathing. Fever and stiffness can signal neuroleptic malignant syndrome, a rare but serious reaction.

Prompt medical advice. Contact your provider promptly for new involuntary movements, trouble swallowing, severe restlessness, or symptoms of high blood sugar such as unusual thirst and frequent urination.

If you feel unsafe or have thoughts of self-harm, call 911 or go to an emergency department.

Your questions answered

Can I stop when I feel better?
Consult with your provider. Continuing treatment may prevent symptoms from returning. Abrupt stopping can cause withdrawal symptoms or a relapse.

What if I cannot sit still?
An inner urge to keep moving can be akathisia, a medication side effect. Tell your provider promptly; it can be mistaken for worsening anxiety.

Everyday tips

Stand up slowly. Avoid driving until you know how the medication affects alertness and coordination.

Stay hydrated and take breaks in hot weather. Some antipsychotics interfere with temperature regulation.

Discuss appetite or weight changes early, and keep scheduled monitoring visits.

Storage and safety

Keep medication in its labeled container, away from excess heat and moisture and out of reach of children and pets. Do not share it. Ask a pharmacy about disposal of unused medication.

Sources

DailyMed: Fanapt prescribing information

Educational handout; does not replace your prescription or provider's recommendations.