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PATIENT EDUCATION

# Olanzapine–samidorphan

Lybalvi / Oral tablets

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

CONTAINS AN OPIOID BLOCKER | DO NOT USE WITH OPIOIDS

**Formulations:** Each tablet contains both medicines. It is not interchangeable with olanzapine alone, especially when opioids or planned surgery are involved.

## What it is used for

Lybalvi treats schizophrenia and certain phases of bipolar I disorder in adults. Samidorphan can reduce the amount of olanzapine-associated weight gain on average, but weight gain and metabolic effects can still occur.

## How it works

Olanzapine blocks dopamine and serotonin receptors. Samidorphan blocks opioid receptors, which creates important restrictions on opioid use.

## 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

- Take once daily as prescribed, with or without food. Swallow whole; do not split or combine tablet strengths yourself.
- 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.
- Do not use opioids while taking it. Never try to overcome the blockade with larger doses.
- Tell emergency, dental, and surgical clinicians that your medication contains samidorphan.

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# Side effects and safety

## Possible side effects

- Increased appetite or weight
- Sleepiness or dizziness
- Dry mouth or constipation
- Restlessness or other movement symptoms

## 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.

## 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.

Do not use with current opioid use or acute opioid withdrawal. Before starting, labeling requires at least seven opioid-free days after short-acting opioids and 14 after long-acting opioids; your provider must determine readiness.

## Medicines and interactions

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

Opioids can cause precipitated withdrawal or fatal overdose-related complications. Planned surgery needs a coordinated medication and pain plan; do not stop or substitute on your own.

Smoking changes and CYP1A2-altering medicines can affect olanzapine. Alcohol, sedatives, and blood-pressure medicines can add impairment or dizziness.

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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

**Will it prevent all weight gain?**
No. Continue weight, blood sugar, and cholesterol monitoring.

**What if I need surgery or emergency pain treatment?**
Tell the team immediately. The opioid blockade changes the options and may require specialist monitoring.

## 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: Lybalvi

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