Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC
Phone 646-549-4694 | Fax 646-558-4238
JMPankoNP@JeffreyPanko.com
jeffreypanko.com

PATIENT EDUCATION

Pimavanserin

Nuplazid / Oral capsules and tablets

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

ONCE DAILY | WITH OR WITHOUT FOOD

Formulations: Oral capsules and tablets are used at the prescribed strength. Capsule contents can be mixed with specified soft foods or a nutritional drink according to the label.

What it is used for

Pimavanserin treats hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson disease psychosis. It is not approved for other dementia-related psychosis unless the symptoms are related to Parkinson disease.

How it works

It acts mainly at serotonin 5-HT2A receptors rather than blocking dopamine D2 receptors. This distinguishes it from many other antipsychotics, but does not eliminate serious risks.

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, with or without food.
- If opening a capsule, use an approved mixing food, consume the entire mixture immediately, and do not store it.
- 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 add or change Parkinson medicines without a coordinated plan.

Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC
Phone 646-549-4694 | Fax 646-558-4238
JMPankoNP@JeffreyPanko.com
jeffreypanko.com

PIMAVANSERIN / 02

Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Swelling of the legs or feet
- Confusion
- Nausea or constipation
- Walking difficulties or falls

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.

Track hallucinations, delusions, falls, confusion, and swelling. Benefit may take several weeks. An ECG or electrolyte testing may be needed based on heart risks.

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 long QT, fainting, slow pulse, low potassium or magnesium, and other heart-rhythm risks. Like other antipsychotics, it carries a warning about increased mortality 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 CYP3A inhibitors require dose adjustment, and strong or moderate inducers are generally avoided.

Review all Parkinson, sleep, and blood-pressure medicines for combined risks.

Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC
Phone 646-549-4694 | Fax 646-558-4238
JMPankoNP@JeffreyPanko.com
jeffreypanko.com

PIMAVANSERIN / 03

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 improve Parkinson movement symptoms?
It is prescribed for hallucinations and delusions, not as a replacement for motor treatment.

Does its different mechanism make it risk-free?
No. Heart-rhythm effects, confusion, swelling, and the dementia-related mortality warning still require review.

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

Official prescribing information: pimavanserin
MedlinePlus: pimavanserin

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