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PSYCHIATRY

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PATIENT EDUCATION

Pimozide

Orap / Generic tablets

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

TABLETS: 1 MG, 2 MG

TAKE ONLY YOUR PRESCRIBED DOSE

Formulations: Oral tablets are started at a low dose and increased cautiously. ECG monitoring and interaction review are central to dosing.

What it is used for

Pimozide is used in the United States to suppress severe motor and vocal tics in Tourette disorder when standard treatment has not been sufficient. Other uses require a separate discussion.

How it works

It blocks dopamine receptors involved in tic expression. Movement-related adverse effects and changes in heart electrical conduction limit how it is used.

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 increases.
- 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.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice.
- Consult with your provider before stopping or adding another medication.

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PIMOZIDE / 02

Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Sleepiness, dizziness, or lightheadedness
- Restlessness, stiffness, or tremor
- Changes in appetite, weight, or digestion

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.

An ECG is obtained before treatment and during dose adjustment. Low potassium or magnesium must be addressed. Some dose decisions require CYP2D6 testing.

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.

Long QT, certain rhythm disorders, and low potassium or magnesium can rule out treatment. Review family history of sudden death.

Medicines and interactions

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

Many combinations are contraindicated, including certain antidepressants, macrolide antibiotics, azole antifungals, and other QT-prolonging drugs. Have every new medicine checked.

CYP3A4 and CYP2D6 inhibitors can raise pimozide exposure. Do not assume a previously tolerated antibiotic is safe now.

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PIMOZIDE / 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

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

Official prescribing information: pimozide
MedlinePlus: pimozide

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