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PSYCHIATRY

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PATIENT EDUCATION

Pipothiazine

Also called pipotiazine / Piportil / International reference

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

CONFIRM LOCAL AVAILABILITY | KEEP INJECTION APPOINTMENTS

Formulations: International oral formulations and long-acting pipotiazine palmitate injections have different schedules. This guide does not substitute for the currently supplied country-specific leaflet.

What it is used for

Pipothiazine is a phenothiazine antipsychotic used internationally for psychotic disorders. Availability differs: the UK depot was withdrawn in 2015, while French Piportil information remains listed. It is not a routine U.S. treatment.

How it works

It blocks dopamine receptors. This can reduce psychotic symptoms but also affects movement and prolactin; other receptor effects can cause sedation and low blood pressure.

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

- Use only a verified, currently prescribed formulation. Follow the local oral or injection schedule.
- Keep injection appointments and call promptly if one is missed. Do not make up an injection yourself.
- For oral dosing, do not double a missed dose. Confirm restart instructions after a treatment gap.
- Do not stop or switch a depot on your own; effects can persist after the last injection.

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Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Drowsiness or low blood pressure
- Stiffness, tremor, or restlessness
- Dry mouth, constipation, or urinary difficulty
- Breast, menstrual, or sexual changes

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.

Discuss glaucoma, urinary obstruction, severe constipation, low blood counts, and blood-clot history. Obtain the local contraindication list before treatment.

Medicines and interactions

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

Other medicines affecting heart rhythm, including some antibiotics and antiarrhythmics, require particular review.

Dopamine agonists may conflict. Alcohol, sedatives, and anticholinergic medicines can add impairment, constipation, or urinary problems.

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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

French public medicines database: Piportil L4, current listing

Sheldon and colleagues, 2022: UK market withdrawal and treatment switching

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