Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

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

PATIENT EDUCATION

Risperidone

Risperdal / Consta / Rykindo / Uzedy / Generic oral formulations

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

CHECK YOUR EXACT FORMULATION | KEEP INJECTION AND LAB APPOINTMENTS

Formulations: Tablets, dissolving tablets, liquid, and several long-acting injections have different schedules and overlap requirements. Perseris availability was discontinued by its manufacturer in May 2026; discuss alternatives if relevant.

What it is used for

Risperidone treats schizophrenia and bipolar I manic or mixed episodes, depending on formulation. Pediatric autism-related irritability is a separate indication and is outside this adult guide.

How it works

It blocks dopamine and serotonin receptors. Dopamine blockade can also increase prolactin and cause movement-related adverse effects.

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 oral doses as prescribed; measure liquid accurately and follow its mixing instructions.
- 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.
- Keep injection appointments and call promptly if one is missed.
- Some injections need temporary oral overlap and others do not. Follow your exact brand's plan.

Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

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

RISPERIDONE / 02

Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Sleepiness or dizziness
- Restlessness, stiffness, or tremor
- Weight gain or constipation
- Breast discharge, menstrual changes, or sexual effects

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.

Report prolactin-related symptoms and new movement changes. Kidney or liver impairment may require lower starting doses or a different formulation.

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.

Fluoxetine, paroxetine, and other CYP2D6 inhibitors can raise risperidone exposure; enzyme inducers may lower it.

Alcohol, sedatives, blood-pressure medicines, and other dopamine-active drugs require review.

Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

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

RISPERIDONE / 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: risperidone
Official prescribing information: risperidone

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