Jeffrey Panko NP
PSYCHIATRY

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

PATIENT EDUCATION

Zuclopenthixol

Clopixol tablets / Acuphase / Depot international formulations

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

UK FORMULATION REFERENCE | TABLETS, ACETATE, AND DEPOT DIFFER

Formulations: Oral tablets, short-acting acetate injection (Acuphase), and long-acting decanoate depot are different formulations. Acuphase is a limited short course, not the maintenance depot.

What it is used for

Zuclopenthixol treats schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders in countries where it is approved. Formulations are used for different phases of treatment. It is not FDA-approved in the United States.

How it works

It blocks dopamine receptors. This can reduce psychotic symptoms and agitation but can also affect movement, prolactin, and alertness.

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 tablets at the prescribed times, with or without food.
- 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.
- A healthcare professional gives injections. Confirm the formulation and next appointment.
- Call promptly after a missed injection. Do not add oral doses or change depot intervals yourself.

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Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Sleepiness or dizziness
- Dry mouth, constipation, or blurred vision
- Restlessness, stiffness, or tremor
- Weight, menstrual, breast, 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 blood-clot history, low electrolytes, severe constipation, liver disease, and prior reactions to injectable medicines.

Medicines and interactions

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

QT-prolonging medicines, including some antibiotics, need particular review. Lithium can add neurologic toxicity.

Alcohol, opioids, sedatives, and blood-pressure medicines can add impairment or fainting; anticholinergic medicines can worsen bowel and urinary effects.

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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 avoid overheating; treatment can affect 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

UK patient leaflet: Clopixol tablets
UK patient leaflet: Clopixol Depot
UK patient leaflet: Clopixol Acuphase

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