

Haloperidol (pron. hallo-perry-doll)

What is haloperidol used for?

Haloperidol is mainly used to help treat the symptoms of psychosis, schizophrenia, mania, agitation and in a crisis. Haloperidol is made as tablets, capsules, a syrup, and a short-acting injection. It is also made as a long-acting or depot injection.

What is the usual dose of haloperidol?

The usual dose of haloperidol by mouth is around 5-20mg a day. The top dose of the short-acting injection is 18mg a day. Much lower doses (e.g. 0.5mg-2mg a day) can be enough in older people.

How and when should I take haloperidol?

Swallow the tablets with at least half a glass of water whilst sitting or standing. For the liquid, use a medicine spoon, dropper or oral syringe. If the label says to take it once a day this may be best at bedtime as it may make you sleepy at first.

How long will haloperidol take to work?

It will usually start working within a couple of hours or days. The effect then builds over the next few weeks.

How long will I need to keep taking haloperidol for?

This will depend on what you are taking it for. Talk to your doctor about this.

Can I stop taking haloperidol suddenly?

Haloperidol is not addictive but do not stop taking it suddenly, even if you feel better. Your symptoms can return if stopped too early. This may occur weeks or even months after stopping haloperidol.

What should I do if I forget to take a dose of haloperidol?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember unless it is within about 4 hours of your next dose. If you remember after this just take the next dose as normal. Do not try to catch up by taking two doses at once as you may get more side-effects.

Can I drink alcohol while I am taking haloperidol?

If you drink alcohol while taking haloperidol it may make you feel more sleepy.

What sort of side-effects might I get if I am taking haloperidol?

Most people get:	Many people also get:	A few people get:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muscles feeling stiff • A slight shake or tremor • Feeling restless • Sleepiness during the day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constipation (you can't poop) • Headache • Feeling dizzy when you stand up • Women may have chest changes and irregular or no periods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight gain • Blurred vision • Skin rash • Sexual problems

Do not be worried by this list of side effects. Some people get no side effects at all and others may get some effects that are not listed here. If you think you might have a side effect to your medicine, you should ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Can I drive or cycle while I am taking haloperidol?

You may feel a bit sleepy at first when taking haloperidol. It may slow down your reaction times. Until this wears off, or you know how haloperidol affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.

The small print: This short leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) or visit our website for more information. Do not share medicines with anyone else.