

## Risperidone (pron. ris-perry-doan)

### What is risperidone used for?

Risperidone (also known as Risperdal<sup>®</sup>) is mainly used to help treat the symptoms of psychosis, schizophrenia, mania, and bipolar depression, and to prevent these symptoms coming back. It can be used to help depression if used with other medicines. It is sometimes also used to help the symptoms of anxiety and dementia. It is made as plain tablets, melt-in-the-mouth tablets, syrup and a long-acting injection.

### What is the usual dose of risperidone?

The usual dose of risperidone is around 4-6mg once a day. Much lower doses (e.g. 0.5mg-2mg a day) can be enough in older people.

### How and when should I take risperidone?

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. For the melt-in-the-mouth tablets, just put them on your tongue and they will dissolve quickly. 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 risperidone take to work?

It will usually start working within a couple of weeks, with the effect building over the next few weeks.

### How long will I need to keep taking risperidone for?

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

### Can I stop taking risperidone suddenly?

Risperidone 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 risperidone.

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

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember unless it is within about 12 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 risperidone?

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

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

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

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 risperidone?

You may feel a bit sleepy at first when taking risperidone. It may slow down your reaction times. Until this wears off, or you know how risperidone 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.