

Haloperidol

Why is this medication prescribed?

Haloperidol is used to treat certain mental/mood disorders (e.g., schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorders). This medicine helps you to think more clearly, feel less nervous, and take part in everyday life. It can also help prevent suicide in people who are likely to harm themselves. It also reduces aggression and the desire to hurt others. It can decrease negative thoughts and hallucinations. Haloperidol can also be used to treat uncontrolled movements and outbursts of words/sounds related to Tourette's disorder. Haloperidol is also used for severe behavior problems in hyperactive children when other treatments or medications have not worked.

Haloperidol is a psychiatric medication (antipsychotic-type) that works by helping to restore the balance of certain natural substances in the brain (neurotransmitters).

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth with or without food. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually reduced.

Other uses for this medicine

Sometimes, haloperidol may be used in hospitalized patients who have severe behavior problems or confusion for short periods of time. This medication may also be used to prevent or treat nausea and vomiting due to cancer treatment.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking haloperidol, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies

This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: a certain severe nervous system problem (severe CNS depression), Parkinson's disease.

This medication should not be given to a patient who is unconscious.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: bipolar disorder, difficulty urinating (e.g., due to prostate problems), glaucoma, heart problems (e.g., angina, heart failure, QT prolongation in the EKG, slow heartbeat), family history of certain heart problems (QT prolongation in the EKG, sudden cardiac death), low levels of potassium or magnesium in the blood, overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism), seizures.

This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Before having surgery, be sure to tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking haloperidol. This medication can reduce sweating, making you more likely to get heatstroke. Avoid hard work and exercise in hot weather. Caution is advised when using this drug in elderly people. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. This drug passes into breast milk and could have undesirable effects on a nursing infant.

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

Limit alcoholic beverages

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up

What side effects can this medication cause?

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- dizziness, fainting, fast or pounding heartbeat;
- restless muscle movements in your eyes, tongue, jaw, or neck;
- tremor (uncontrolled shaking);
- fever, stiff muscles, confusion, sweating, fast or uneven heartbeats;
- stabbing chest pain, feeling short of breath, cough with yellow or green mucus;
- sudden mood changes;
- confusion, agitation, hallucinations, unusual thoughts or behavior; or
- jaundice (yellowing of your skin or eyes).

Less serious side effects may include:

- headache, dizziness, drowsiness;
- sleep problems (insomnia);
- feeling restless or anxious;
- mild skin rash or itching;
- breast enlargement, irregular menstrual periods, loss of interest in sex; or
- dry mouth, blurred vision, urinating less than usual.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature between 15-30 degrees C away from light and moisture.

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately

What other information should I know?

Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy. Get up slowly and steady yourself to prevent a fall.