

## HALOPERIDOL (injection)

*hal-oh-peer-ih-dol*

### What does it do?

*Haloperidol* is used to treat some mental health problems such as schizophrenia. It is also sometimes used for other conditions such as nausea and vomiting.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have heart, liver, bowel, bladder, prostate or eye (e.g. glaucoma) problems.
- Tell your doctor if you have diabetes, Parkinson's disease, have ever had a seizure, blood clot, stroke or 'mini-stroke', or if you have experienced strange body movements with another medicine.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- Your doctor may do a heart test (ECG) before you start and while you are taking *haloperidol*.

### How is it given?

*Haloperidol* is given as an injection into a vein, muscle or under the skin.

### What if you forget a dose?

If you miss an appointment for your injection, contact your health professional as soon as possible.

### Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *haloperidol* including:

- some antihistamines (may be in anti-allergy, anti-nausea and cough/cold medicines)
- anti-nausea medicines (e.g. prochlorperazine, hyoscine (e.g. Scopoderm TTS®), metoclopramide (e.g. Sea-legs®))

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. St John's wort, valerian) or recreational drugs (e.g. cannabis).

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects  | Recommended action              |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Fever, stiffness, sweating, confusion<br>Feeling restless, strange or uncontrolled movements, tremor<br>Fast or irregular heartbeat, fainting<br>Symptoms of a blood clot including: sudden shortness of breath, swelling or pain in one leg<br>Seizures<br>Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain<br>Prolonged erection (longer than four hours) | Tell your doctor immediately    |
| Drowsiness, dizziness<br>Weight gain<br>Dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, trouble peeing<br>Stomach upset<br>Changes in periods<br>Sore or enlarged breasts, breastmilk production<br>Less interest in sex, impotence<br>Pain, tenderness or redness at injection site   | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- *Haloperidol* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)
- Smoking can change the effect of *haloperidol*. Tell your doctor if you give up, cut down or start smoking.
- *Haloperidol* reduces your body's ability to maintain a normal temperature. Be careful of becoming too cold or too hot. When exercising, drink plenty of water.
- You have an increased risk of getting diabetes while taking *haloperidol*. Discuss with your doctor.
- If you are taking *haloperidol* regularly, do not stop taking it without talking to your doctor.

***This leaflet contains important, but not all, information about this medicine.***

*Prepared by the MyMedicines Committee at Christchurch Hospital, Te Whatu Ora - Waitaha, New Zealand. March 2023*