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# HALOPERIDOL

**Brand names:** Haldol®, Haldol®  
Decanoate

## What is this medication used for?

Haloperidol is an antipsychotic medication used for the treatment of psychosis and schizophrenia. It may also be used as a sedative (or calming agent) for severely agitated or delirious patients. Haloperidol is used to control symptoms associated with Tourette's. In hospice patients, haloperidol may also be used alone, or in combination with other medications, to reduce nausea, vomiting and anxiety near the end of life.

## How should I take this medication?

Haloperidol can be taken orally, intramuscularly, intravenously, or compounded and used as a suppository or a topical gel.

Take the oral form with a full glass of water. It may be taken with or without food.

When using the topical gel, caregivers should wear gloves to make sure they do not self-medicate.

Do not take more than the prescribed dose of haloperidol. Likewise, do not stop taking haloperidol abruptly. Both of these actions can cause serious consequences.

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

Do not take any new medication (prescription or over-the-counter) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

## Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

Muscle movements that are uncontrollable

Any unexplained, uncontrolled muscle movements in your arms, legs, tongue, face, jaw or mouth (for example: sticking out your tongue, puckering or smacking your lips, puffing your cheeks, or chewing movements). This is more likely to happen in elderly patients, especially women. However, it may occur at any time while taking Haloperidol.

NMS (neuroleptic malignant syndrome) is a possibly fatal syndrome that can be caused by Haloperidol. Symptoms of NMS may include: fever, stiff muscles, confusion, abnormal thinking, fast or irregular heartbeat, and sweating. Contact your doctor immediately if you have any of these symptoms.

## Special Instructions:

Do NOT drink alcohol while you are using Haloperidol.

Haloperidol may cause you to sunburn more easily. Avoid the sun, sunlamps, or tanning booths until you know how you react to Haloperidol. Use a sunscreen or wear protective clothing if you must be outside for more than a short time.

Do not become overheated in hot weather or while you are exercising; heatstroke may occur more readily with the use of Haloperidol.

Lab tests, including complete blood cell counts, may be performed while you use Haloperidol. These tests may be used to monitor your condition or check for side effects. Be sure to keep all doctor and lab appointments.

## What are the side effects of this medication?

- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Dry mouth
- Headache
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Restlessness
- Stomach upset
- Trouble sleeping

Other side effects not listed may also occur. Check with your physician if you notice any other effects.

This information is only a summary. Please contact your healthcare professional for additional information about this medication.

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