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100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

What is Risperdal®?

By Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC

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What is Risperdal?

How is Risperdal® different than other drugs?

How long does it take for Risperdal® to start working?

How long do I need to take Risperdal®?

Will Risperdal® improve how I feel?

What are the typical side effects of Risperdal®?

What other side effects exist?

Studies on the safety of Risperdal®

What is Risperdal?

RISPERDAL®, generically known as risperidone, is an FDA approved medication for treatment of bipolar I disorder and is also approved or to treat acute to manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder. It is approved for use as therapy alone or in combination with drugs called mood stabilizers, such as lithium or valproate. Risperdal is also approved for bipolar mania.

The drug was released in 1994 and is prescribed worldwide. It is one of a family of "atypical antipsychotic medications" used to treat schizophrenia and psychotic disorders. Risperdal® improves schizophrenia's positive symptoms (e.g., visual and auditory hallucinations, delusions, and thought disturbances) and may also help treat the illness' negative symptoms (e.g., social withdrawal, apathy, lack of motivation, and inability to experience pleasure).

How does Risperdal® work?

In order to treat chemical imbalances associated with bipolar mania, dopamine and serotonin levels are controlled using the drug. While the specific details of how Risperdal® does this are not known,

What is Risperdal®?

testing shows that Risperdal® adjusts the balance of dopamine and serotonin thereby reducing the bipolar mania. It is important to note that the Risperdal® does not cure, but only helps to control the mania.

Risperdal®, like some other atypical antipsychotics, is designed as a serotonin/dopamine antagonist. Apparently, Risperdal blocks the serotonin and dopamine, two neurotransmitter chemicals in the

brains.

How is Risperdal® different than other drugs?

Conventional antipsychotics seem to primarily affect only dopamine. Risperdal® affects both. Antipsychotics such as Haldol, Stelazine, and Prolixin have treated symptoms in many patients. However, these drugs do not satisfactorily affect the negative (depressive) symptoms, Risperdal® has been shown to be as effective as the conventional medications in treating positive symptoms.

How long does it take for Risperdal® to start working?

Improvement of symptoms may be noticed in some patients relatively quickly. It can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks for a patient taking Risperdal® to see benefits. Therefore, usually doctors inform their patients to not expect immediate results, but to give the drug time to take full effect. Some adjustments may be necessary to reach the optimal dose for each patient.

Typically, a patient will take Risperdal® for a trial period of at least four to six weeks at the optimal dose before evaluating its effectiveness. It is now known that lower doses (3 or 4 mg/day) are often effective with lower risk for side effects.

How long do I need to take Risperdal®?

You should take Risperdal as indicated by your doctor. Do not self regulate. Rather, take this drug as prescribed. The FDA has approved Risperdal as safe and effective. It could be dangerous to stop taking medicines, especially abruptly. Patients should talk with their physicians to decide whether the benefits and risks of taking Risperdal® make the product the right choice. Therefore, keep on taking Risperdal® as prescribed by your healthcare professional.

Will Risperdal® improve how I feel?

Risperdal® showed a large improvement for those taking it, compared to those taking a placebo - according to the clinical trials.

What is Risperdal®?

What are the typical side effects of Risperdal®?

- muscle stiffness
- tremors
- body shakes
- low blood pressure
- dizziness
- heart palpitations
- sleepiness
- constipation
- weight gain
- sexual dysfunction
- fatigue
- Anxiety
- Headache
- Rhinitis

Read more about the commonly known risks and side effects of Risperdal®

What are other Risperdal® side effects that exist? · hypotension

- syncope
- cardiac arrhythmias
- first degree AV–block
- seizure
- gynecomastia (breast growth in males)
- galactorrhea · amenorrhea
- menorrhagia
- ejaculatory and erectile dysfunction.
- photosensitivity
- hyperpigmentation
- urinary retention

There are also several case reports of patients who developed the neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) as a complication of risperidone use, as well as cases of irreversible tardive dyskinesia is a consideration with chronic risperidone therapy, as with all neuroleptics, although the risk is thought to be lower with risperidone due to its comparatively weak dopamine receptor affinity.

More about the lesser known risks and side effects of Risperdal®?

Studies on the safety of Risperdal®

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Risperdal–Help.org

is a site designed to provide parents of children with Gynecomastia and other side effects from Risperdal with resources that help them make informed decisions.

What causes breast growth in young males? Young boys?

By Michael Monheit, Esquire, Monheit Law, PC

According to an article published in the Miami Herald, the maker of Risperdal® admitted to hiding its risks. In an article by Carol Marbin Miller, cmarbin@herald.com, Janssen, the maker of the billion-dollar antipsychotic medication Risperdal®, acknowledged that it misled doctors and other healthcare providers about the safety of its product, minimizing potentially deadly side effects.

Risperdal, has often been prescribed to Florida children in state care, including to a handful of boys who developed lactating breasts after taking it. Janssen Pharmaceutica wrote a two-page letter to doctors, warning them that the company, in promotional material, had "minimized potentially fatal risks, and made misleading claims" that the medication was more safe in treating mental illness than other drugs in the same category.

Risperdal®, a drug used to combat schizophrenia and other types of psychotic disorders, earned Janssen about \$2.1 billion in annual sales. The drug is prescribed to more than 10 million people worldwide and has been used since 1994.

In 2001, The Herald published a series of stories about the common use of Risperdal® among children in state care, indicating that the drug was be overused (abused) as a "chemical restraint" on children whose unruly behavior was a frustration to caretakers.

"I had clients who were displaying severe side effects, and I tried to alert the Department of Children & Families both as to the local problem and the growing national concern about a range of psychotropic medications, Risperdal® and other antipsychotics in particular," said Coral Springs attorney and children's advocate Andrea Moore.

"This whole psychotropic drug issue is a problem for us," said Broward Circuit Judge John A. Frusciante, referring to Risperdal® and others. "It's a very scary area to be in, because we know medication can be a tremendous help for a number of children. But we also know that there are risks to the children who are taking these medications."

Antoinette R. Appel, a Plantation neuropsychologist, studied the records of about 50 South Florida foster children who had been prescribed Risperdal®. She said many of the children developed severe side-effects, including obesity, lethargy, lack of concentration, hormonal disorders and the

What is Risperdal®?

inappropriate development of secondary sexual characteristics, such as lactating breasts in boys or young girls.

A high profile case involved a Florida Supreme Court ruling that child welfare authorities cannot lock up foster kids in psychiatric hospitals without a hearing. This hearing, involving a child identified as "M.W.", dealt with a boy who had developed lactating breasts after doctors forced him to take Risperdal, court records show.

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