

PATIENT SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT

GEODON^ä

(*ziprasidone HCl*)

Information for patients taking GEODON or their caregivers

This summary contains important information about GEODON. It is not meant to take the place of your doctor's instructions. Read this information carefully before you take GEODON. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about GEODON.

What Is GEODON?

GEODON is a type of prescription medicine called an antipsychotic. Antipsychotics are medicines used to treat symptoms of schizophrenia that may include:

- hearing voices, seeing things, or sensing things that are not there
- mistaken beliefs
- unusual suspiciousness
- becoming withdrawn from family and friends

If you show a response to GEODON, your symptoms may improve. If you continue to take GEODON there is less chance of your symptoms returning. Do not stop taking the capsules even when you feel better without discussing this with your doctor.

What is the most important information I should know about GEODON?

GEODON is a drug to treat your symptoms of schizophrenia. It is effective but it may have a greater risk than some other drugs for schizophrenia because it may change the way the electrical current in your heart works more than some other drugs. It only changes it a little and we do not know whether this will be harmful, but some other drugs that cause this kind of change have sometimes caused rare dangerous heart rhythm abnormalities. Because of this possible risk (we don't know yet if there really is a risk), GEODON should be used only after your doctor has considered this risk for GEODON against the risks and benefits of other medications available for treating schizophrenia.

Your risk of dangerous changes in heart rhythm can be increased by other medicines you are taking and by certain heart conditions that you may already have. Therefore, it is important to tell your doctor about any other medicines that you take, including non-prescription medicines, supplements, and herbal medicines. You must also tell your doctor about any heart problems you have or have had.

Who should NOT take GEODON?

Anything that can increase the chance of a heart rhythm abnormality should be avoided. Therefore, do not take GEODON if:

- You have certain heart diseases, for example, long QT syndrome, a recent heart attack, severe heart failure, or certain irregularities of heart rhythm (discuss the specifics with your doctor)
- You are currently taking medications that should not be taken in combination with ziprasidone, for example, dofetilide, sotalol, quinidine, other Class Ia and III anti-arrhythmics, mesoridazine, thioridazine, chlorpromazine, droperidol, pimozide, sparfloxacin, gatifloxacin, moxifloxacin, halofantrine, mefloquine, pentamidine, arsenic trioxide, levomethadyl acetate, dolasetron mesylate, probucol or tacrolimus.

What To Tell Your Doctor Before You Start GEODON

Only your doctor can decide if GEODON is right for you. Before you start GEODON, be sure to tell your doctor if you:

- have had any problem with the way your heart beats or any heart related illness or disease
- any family history of heart disease
- have had any problem with fainting or dizziness
- are taking or have recently taken any prescription medicines
- are taking any over-the-counter medicines you can buy without a prescription, including natural/herbal remedies
- have had any problems with your liver
- are pregnant, might be pregnant, or plan to get pregnant
- are breast feeding
- are allergic to any medicines
- have ever had an allergic reaction to ziprasidone or any of the other ingredients of GEODON capsules.
Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a list of these ingredients

Your doctor may want you to get additional laboratory tests to see if GEODON is an appropriate treatment for you.

GEODON And Other Medicines

There are some medications that may be unsafe to use when taking GEODON, and there are some medicines that can affect how well GEODON works. While you are on GEODON, check with your doctor before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medications, including natural/herbal remedies.

How To Take GEODON

- Take GEODON only as directed by your doctor.
- Swallow the capsules whole.
- The capsules should be taken with food.

- It is best to take GEODON at the same time each day.
- GEODON may take a few weeks to work. It is important to be patient.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking your medicine without your doctor's approval.
- Remember to keep taking your capsules, even when you feel better.

Possible Side Effects

Because these problems could mean you're having a heart rhythm abnormality, contact your doctor IMMEDIATELY if you:

- Faint or lose consciousness
- Feel a change in the way that your heart beats (palpitations)

Common side effects of GEODON include the following and should also be discussed with your doctor if they occur:

- Feeling unusually tired or sleepy
- Nausea or upset stomach
- Constipation
- Dizziness
- Restlessness
- Abnormal muscle movements, including tremor, shuffling, and uncontrolled involuntary movements
- Diarrhea
- Rash
- Increased cough / runny nose

If you develop any side effects that concern you, talk with your doctor. It is particularly important to tell your doctor if you have diarrhea, vomiting, or another illness that can cause you to lose fluids. Your doctor may want to check your blood to make sure that you have the right amount of important salts after such illnesses.

For a list of all side effects that have been reported, ask your doctor or pharmacist for the GEODON Professional Package Insert.

What To Do For An Overdose

In case of an overdose, call your doctor or poison control center right away or go to the nearest emergency room.

Other Important Safety Information

Dizziness caused by a drop in your blood pressure may occur with GEODON, especially when you first start taking this medication or when the dose is increased. If this happens, be careful not to stand up too quickly, and talk to your doctor about the problem.

Before taking GEODON, tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant. It is advised that you don't breast feed an infant if you are taking GEODON.

Because GEODON can cause sleepiness, be careful when operating machinery or driving a motor vehicle.

Since medications of the same drug class as GEODON may interfere with the ability of the body to adjust to heat, it is best to avoid situations involving high temperature or humidity.

It is best to avoid consuming alcoholic beverages while taking GEODON.

Call your doctor *immediately* if you take more than the amount of GEODON prescribed by your doctor.

GEODON has not been shown to be safe or effective in the treatment of children and teenagers under the age of 18 years old.

Keep GEODON and all medicines out of the reach of children.

How To Store GEODON

Store GEODON capsules at room temperature (59°-86°F or 15°-30°C).

For More Information About GEODON

This sheet is only a summary. If you have any questions or want more information about GEODON, talk with your doctor or pharmacist. You can also visit the Pfizer internet site at www.pfizer.com.



U.S. Pharmaceuticals

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