

Patient Information Sheet: Ziprasidone (*Geodon*)

This is a summary of the most important information about Geodon (from the FDA's web site).

What is Geodon?

Geodon is an antipsychotic medicine. These medicines are used to treat symptoms of schizophrenia that may include hearing voices, seeing things, or sensing things that are not there, mistaken beliefs or unusual suspiciousness. Geodon is used to treat mixed or manic episodes in adults who have a condition called Bipolar I disorder. Bipolar disorder is a mental illness that causes extreme mood swings.

Who Should Not Take Geodon?

Geodon can increase your chance of an abnormal heart rhythm (the way your heart beats) if you have certain heart conditions or take certain medicines. Therefore do not take Geodon if you have the following heart conditions:

- ◆ long QT syndrome (a specific heart rhythm problem)
- ◆ a recent heart attack
- ◆ severe heart failure
- ◆ certain irregularities of heart rhythm (discuss the specifics with your doctor)

What are The Risks?

The following are the risks and potential side effects of Geodon therapy. However, this list is not complete.

Geodon may cause dangerous problems with your heart rhythm (the way your heart beats). Notify someone if you:

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

Increased chance of death in elderly persons. Elderly patients treated with atypical antipsychotics, such as Geodon, for dementia had a higher chance for death than patients who did not take the medicine. Geodon is not approved for dementia.

A life-threatening nervous system problem called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS). NMS can cause a high fever, stiff muscles, sweating, a fast or irregular heart beat, change in blood pressure, and confusion. It can affect your kidneys and is a medical emergency.

A movement problem called tardive dyskinesia (TD). Characterized by muscle movements that cannot be stopped.

High blood sugar and diabetes. Patients with diabetes or who have a higher chance for diabetes should have their blood sugar checked often.

Other serious side effects may include low blood pressure seen as dizziness, increased heart beat and possibly fainting [or falls], seizures, persistent erection, increase or decrease in body temperature and difficulty swallowing.

The most common side effects include feeling unusually tired or sleepy, nausea or upset stomach, constipation, dizziness, restlessness, diarrhea, rash, increased cough / runny nose.

What Should I Tell My Healthcare Professional?

Before you start taking Geodon, tell your healthcare professional if you:

- ◆ have or had heart problems
- ◆ have or had diabetes or increased blood sugar
- ◆ drink alcohol
- ◆ have or had liver problems
- ◆ have or had seizures
- ◆ are trying to become pregnant, are already pregnant or are breast-feeding

Are There Any Interactions With Drugs or Foods?

Because certain other medications can interact with Geodon, review all medications you are taking with your healthcare professional, including those that you take without a prescription. Your healthcare professional may have to adjust your dose or watch you more closely if you take the following medications:

- ◆ dofetilide
- ◆ chlorpromazine
- ◆ gatifloxacin
- ◆ levomethadyl acetate
- ◆ sotalol
- ◆ tacrolimus
- ◆ moxifloxacin
- ◆ dolasetron mesylate
- ◆ quinidine
- ◆ droperidol
- ◆ halofantrine
- ◆ probucol
- ◆ mesoridazine
- ◆ pimozone
- ◆ mefloquine
- ◆ thioridazine
- ◆ sparfloxacin
- ◆ pentamidine
- ◆ certain medicines to treat high blood pressure
- ◆ certain medicines to control the way your heart beats

Is There Anything Else I Need to Know?

Geodon may impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills. You should be careful in operating machinery, including automobiles, until you know how Geodon affects you.

It is important to avoid overheating and dehydration while taking Geodon, as it may make it harder to lower your body temperature.