



Paliperidone (Invega)

The medication Paliperidone (**Invega**) is an **atypical** neuroleptic. Invega is a newer form of the medication Risperdal. It is used to treat voices (also known as "Psychosis"). Psychosis can be experienced as disorganized thinking or behavior and unusual perceptions (hearing voices, seeing things, feeling paranoid). Invega is also used to treat mood instability associated with manic-depressive disorder also known as Bipolar Affective Disorder. Symptoms including poor sleep, racing thoughts and severe mood swings can be reduced with Invega. Generally these symptoms interfere with your life goals. There may be other reasons someone takes Invega.

Invega is FDA approved for schizophrenia in adolescents and adults. It is also FDA approved for schizoaffective disorder.

Although Invega can be very helpful, it can cause some side effects that you should know of before accepting treatment with it. The most common include: **trouble sleeping and restlessness**. Although these effects generally occur during initial treatment, some remain throughout treatment and may warrant discontinuing the medication. Talk with your provider about it.

Recently, neuroleptics have been found to be associated with diabetes and weight gain, high cholesterol, and high triglycerides. These problems can lead to obesity and cardiovascular issues. Though serious, these side effects are uncommon. Nevertheless, it is important to talk to your provider about these issues. **Invega does not usually cause these problems**. Yet these potential side effects warrant you watching what you eat, and getting your blood sugar, cholesterol, and triglycerides checked occasionally.

Again, Invega is generally a well-tolerated medication which works well at helping people restore their lives, but these other issues are serious. Talk to your provider about it.

Invega is different from older **typical** neuroleptics in that it is less likely to cause EPS (ExtraPyramidal Side effects). But in the rare instances that these may occur they include resting tremor, muscle stiffness or spasms, abnormal movements of the mouth, tongue, extremities. These are usually benign and can be treated with side effect medication. Tardive Dyskinesia (unusual movements of the mouth, tongue, arms) and NMS (high fever, racing heart, agitation, sweating) although rare, are serious side effects of the older **typical** neuroleptics. These effects are considerably lower with Invega.

The beneficial effect of Invega can sometimes take 3-5 days to three weeks, sometimes longer. The maximum effect can sometimes take as long as 9-12 months. Generally if no effect is felt after 6 weeks, then a different medication or different dosage should be considered. The usual dosage range is 3- 6 mg/ day.

There is a new form of Invega called Invega Sustenna. This is a long-acting form that a person takes once a month. There is believed to be fewer side effects with this injectable form due to a lower level of medication in your body. One of the nice benefits is the freedom from taking a medication every day!

Invega is generally safe with other medications. But as with all medications, please let your provider know if you are engaged in other treatments. There are no dietary restrictions.

There are supplemental ways to improve life which include:

- exercise**
- good sleep habits**
- good eating habits**
- yoga**
- a hobby**
- visiting with family or friends**
- psychotherapy**

If you have further questions about this medication, please ask your medical provider or your pharmacist.

Original:	08/2011	Last reviewed:	06/2012				
		Last revised:	06/2012				