

Haldol (haloperidol) basics

Helps control your thoughts, calm agitation, and stabilize your mood. Haldol (haloperidol) is less likely to cause weight gain and sedation, but more likely to cause movement disorders compared to other antipsychotics.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Avoid driving or other activities that require mental concentration until you know how this medicine will affect you.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you develop any involuntary muscle movements and fever.
- Don't stop taking Haldol (haloperidol) if you don't see immediate relief of symptoms. The full effects may take up to 6 weeks. Work closely with your doctor to find the right medicine for you. It can take a few tries before you find one that works the best.
- Drink lots of fluids on hot days or during strenuous activities since Haldol (haloperidol) can affect how your body responds to heat.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Increased risk of death

Older patients with dementia have a higher risk of death when treated with antipsychotic medications. Haldol (haloperidol) is not approved to treat dementia-related psychosis in elderly patients. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

Blood disorders

Haldol (haloperidol) can lower white blood cell counts. White blood cells help your body fight infections. Tell your doctor if you have symptoms of an infection such as fever or sore throat that don't go away. You may need routine blood tests while on this medication.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

This is a rare, but life-threatening condition associated with antipsychotic medicines. Symptoms include high fever, fast heart rate, full body stiffness, and confusion. Seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of these symptoms. Your doctor will likely find you another medication that will work better for you.