

Saphris (asenapine) basics

Treats bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. While Saphris (asenapine) has fewer side effects compared with other medicines that treat bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, it can be more expensive.

What to expect when starting

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



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- To take Saphris (asenapine), place the pill under your tongue and let it dissolve completely. Don't chew or swallow the pill, and don't eat or drink for 10 minutes after you take it.
- You might feel numbness or tingling in your mouth or throat after you take Saphris (asenapine). This usually goes away after an hour.
- Don't drive or do anything requiring concentration until you know how Saphris (asenapine) affects you.
- Don't stop taking Saphris (asenapine) suddenly without talking to your doctor first because it can be very dangerous.
- If you miss a dose of Saphris (asenapine), take it as soon as you remember, unless it's time for your next dose; don't take 2 doses at the same time.
- Keep Saphris (asenapine) in your pantry away from heat, moisture, and light. Don't store it in your bathroom's medicine cabinet.

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.

Higher risk of death

Older people who have dementia and psychosis have a higher risk of death if they take antipsychotic medicines like Saphris (asenapine). They shouldn't be given this medicine.

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

Taking antipsychotic medications like Saphris (asenapine) can cause neuroleptic malignant syndrome, which is rare but life-threatening. Symptoms include a very high fever, sweating, stiff muscles, and a fast or irregular heartbeat. Call your doctor or 911 right away.

Difficulty controlling movements

Some people have noticed changes in being able to control movements while on Saphris (asenapine). This can be permanent if it's not taken care of right away. Examples include lip smacking, or having tremors of your arms, neck, or head. Call your doctor right away if this happens.