

OLANZAPINE DEPOT INJECTION

Other names: Zyprexa[®], Relprevv[®]



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are receiving this medicine?

Olanzapine depot injection is used for the maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults.

When and how this medicine is administered

- The injection is administered every 2 or 4 weeks depending on the dose required
- It is administered by deep intramuscular (IM) injection into your buttock (gluteal injection)
- It will be given (administered) in a healthcare facility so that you can be monitored for side effects (post-injection syndrome), and access to emergency services if required

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Some common side effects of olanzapine include:

- drowsiness and sedation
- increased appetite (weight gain)
- low blood pressure (could cause fainting)
- constipation
- dry mouth
- joint pain
- swelling of the ankles

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Post - Injection Syndrome

Olanzapine depot injection also carries the risk of 'post-injection syndrome'. This risk is low but possible with every injection.

Post-injection syndrome is similar to olanzapine overdose. It may begin with milder symptoms which gradually get worse. It may range from mild sedation to deep sleep and coma or delirium (including confusion, anxiety and agitation). Other symptoms could include: dizziness, weakness, altered speech, hypertension (high blood pressure), aggression, extrapyramidal symptoms (e.g. jerkiness of muscles or movement, repetitive facial movements) and seizures.

Monitoring and Follow-Up

You will be monitored for at least two (2) hours after every injection for any symptoms of post-injection syndrome and to make sure that you are alert and not confused.

Do not drive or operate machinery for the remainder of the day.

If you have any symptoms of the post-injection syndrome that occur later in the day, contact your carer, key-worker or the Emergency Department of your nearest hospital.

Regular monitoring of the liver function, cholesterol blood levels and blood glucose level is also recommended.

A note for your carer

If the patient becomes sleepy or confused or does not respond when you talk to them, or has any other signs of post-injection syndrome, get them to hospital immediately.

Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine, including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Avoid drinking alcohol while you are on olanzapine.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.