

Medication Information Card

Phenothiazines

(Feen – o – thy – a – zeens)

Other names for this medication

There are many other names for this medication.

How this medication is used

This medication helps block psychotic thoughts by decreasing the activity of a naturally occurring chemical in the brain.

This medication helps control anxiety, hallucinations, problems sleeping, agitation, aggressive behaviour and social withdrawal.

This medication can also be used to control nausea in some patients.

This medication works right away to help nausea, but it may take 2 to 3 weeks to work fully for other problems.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor at the same time each day. It must be taken regularly, even when you feel well.

Tablet - Swallow with a glass of water. It may be crushed with milk, food or water.

Liquid - Add to a full glass of water or fruit juice.

Injection - A health care provider will give you an injection in your muscle.

Suppository - Take the wrapper off. Lie on your side. Put the rounded end of the suppository into the rectum as far as possible. It may be easier to put the suppository in if you first moisten it with water.

Do not take more of this medication without talking to your doctor first.

Do not stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor first.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

While taking this medication you may notice

- drowsiness
- dizziness
- dry mouth
- blurred vision
- constipation
- weight changes
- nausea
- your skin and eyes are more sensitive to the sun

To avoid constipation, eat lots of fibre, drink 6 to 8 glasses of liquid each day and exercise regularly.

To help dry mouth, try sucking sugar-free candy or chewing sugar-free gum. Sucking on ice chips also helps if you are not on a limited fluid diet. Good care of your teeth is very important at this time.

Stay cool on a hot day. You may sweat less and become overheated while taking this medication. Wear sunblock to protect your skin from the sun.

To avoid feeling dizzy, get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

Contact your doctor if you notice

- skin rash
- trouble staying still
- uncontrollable movements of your face, hands and arms
- muscle stiffness
- drooling
- changes in menstrual cycle