

Ziprasidone (Geodon®)

ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Client's Name _____

Date _____

Initial Medication Instructions _____

What does this medication help to treat?

Schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder or other conditions.

Symptoms of these conditions are:

- Hallucinations (hearing voices)
- Delusions (beliefs that are false)
- Fearful feelings
- Paranoia or suspiciousness
- Agitation, aggression, or hostility
- Lack of energy or motivation

- Poor concentration
- Rapid thoughts
- Pacing and restlessness
- Fluctuations in mood
- Insomnia

Ziprasidone is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your health care professional for more information.

Other information

- This medication can take up to 6 weeks to achieve desired results, but you should begin to see improvement within the first two weeks of treatment.
- Tell your prescriber if you have or have ever had any of these conditions: alcohol or drug abuse; heart rhythm abnormality; a recent heart attacks; severe heart failure; or heart irregularities.

Side Effects and Management

Common (greater than 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Drowsiness	Use caution when driving or operating machinery. Ask you prescriber about taking your dose at bedtime if drowsiness occurs.
Insomnia	Ask your prescriber about taking your doses in the morning and early afternoon.
Nausea, Vomiting or Upset Stomach	Try taking your ziprasidone with food, if vomiting continues, call your prescriber.
Headache	You may take aspirin or Tylenol to relieve your headache. The headache side effect of this medication should subside over time. Talk to your prescriber if headaches are severe or persist for more than one day.

Uncommon (~1 to 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Restlessness, Agitation	Talk to your prescriber about possibly adjusting the dose of your ziprasidone.
Constipation	Drink plenty of water and increase fiber in your diet. Consult your prescriber about other treatment.
Dizziness	Arise slowly from chairs. Dangle feet off the side of the bed before getting up.
Dry Mouth	Suck on sugarless gum or candy or melt bits of ice in your mouth. Call your prescriber if your mouth feels dry for more than 2 weeks.
Increased sensitivity to the sun	Avoid unnecessary or prolonged exposure to sunlight and wear protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
Muscle Effects: stiffness, tremor	You may experience muscle stiffness, spasm, or restlessness. If this should happen, tell your prescriber so that your dose may be adjusted or a medication can be given to counteract these effects.
Increased Blood Sugar, Cholesterol	Have your blood sugar and cholesterol checked by your prescriber regularly, especially if you have diabetes or a higher risk for diabetes.

Rare (less than 1 in 100 clients on this medication)

Call your prescriber immediately if you experience:

- Irregular heart rhythms on ECG
- Fine worm-like tongue movements, unusual face, mouth, or jaw movements
- Fast or irregular heartbeat (palpitations)
- Slow or difficult speech
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing

- Risk of stroke (in elderly individuals)
- Seizures or convulsions
- Shuffling walk
- Blurred vision
- Fever
- Skin rash or yellowing of the skin or eyes

References: Clinical Psychopharmacology, LexiComp 2011

Note: This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions or adverse effects for this medication. If you have further questions about the medications you are taking check with your health care professional