

# Haldol and Risperdal

## *Chapters Health System Resource Library Series*

### Facts about Haldol and Risperdal

#### Uses:

- Schizophrenia
- Mania in bipolar disorder
- Nausea and vomiting
- Delirium
- Agitation
- Acute psychosis

#### Side Effects:

- Extrapyramidal effects: sudden, often jerky, involuntary motions of the head, neck, arms, body or eyes, and muscle stiffness.
- Dizziness
- Hyperactivity
- Tiredness
- Nausea

**If you have questions or concerns,  
please call 866.204.8611.**



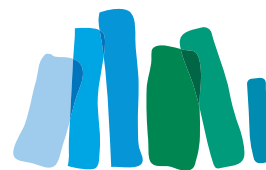
### What are Haldol and Risperdal?

Haldol (haloperidol) and Risperdal (risperidone) are antipsychotic medications used in hospice settings to treat terminal delirium and severe agitation in end-stage dementia. They may also be used to treat nausea and vomiting.

Terminal delirium is frequently seen as rapid onset of confusion, restlessness and changes in perception. It can include agitation and may be an indication death is near. It can be quite distressing to patients and their families.

Haldol is the drug of choice to treat terminal delirium. The specific goal in its use is to minimize agitation and keep the patient as comfortable as possible. Haldol and Risperdal are the most studied drugs in their class and are the mainstay treatment for agitation in elderly patients with delirium or dementia.

These medications are very effective in managing all of these symptoms. The World Health Organization has deemed Haldol one of 20 essential medications in non-curative care and is safe and effective at treating end-of-life patients.



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