Information on ZUCLOPENTHIXOL for Service users and their Families

This leaflet provides general information about your medication. Manufacturer patient information leaflets are also provided with all medicines. If you require further information, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Zuclopenthixol is also known as Clopixol. It comes as tablets or a depot injection.

Zuclopenthixol is pronounced:

_Zoo-clo-pen-thick-sol_

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The Mersey Care Medicines Information Service\(^1\) regularly updates this information sheet.

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\(^1\) Medicines Information, Pharmacy, Mossley Hill Hospital, Park Avenue, Liverpool L18 8BU
What is Zuclopenthixol for?
Zuclopenthixol is part of a group of medications called antipsychotics which are used to treat mental illnesses that may cause you to hear voices, see, feel or sense things that are not there, hold mistaken beliefs, become unusually suspicious or withdrawn. Sometimes, zuclopenthixol can be used to treat conditions that cause extreme mood swings.

How should I take Zuclopenthixol?
Before taking zuclopenthixol, tell your doctor if:
- you are allergic to zuclopenthixol and its other ingredients
- you have suffer from a heart, liver, kidney or thyroid condition; chest or breathing problems, fits, glaucoma, Parkinson’s disease or prostate problems, severe muscle weakness, diabetes, stroke, blood pressure or a history of blood clots
- you are taking any other medication including any medicines or supplement you bought for yourself without prescription
- you are pregnant (or planning pregnancy) or breast-feeding

Your doctor will decide how much zuclopenthixol is right for you to take. If you are taking tablets, swallow them whole with a drink of water. Never take more than the prescribed dose. If you have been prescribed an injection, your nurse will give you the correct dose. Ask your pharmacist or nurse if you are not sure of anything.

Do I need any test when taking Zuclopenthixol?
Your doctor may carry out some blood and urine tests and monitor your height, weight, blood pressure and pulse. You may also get a heart tracing or electrocardiogram (ECG) done to check how well your heart is working. These tests will allow the doctor to check if this medication is right for you and to monitor your treatment.

Can I stop taking Zuclopenthixol if I feel better?
Zuclopenthixol helps prevent your symptoms from returning (relapse) so it is best to continue taking it. People who take this type of medication regularly are less likely to deteriorate or have to go into hospital with severe symptoms. It is better to discuss with your doctor how long you will need to be on medication. Antipsychotic medication tends to be taken long term. If you want to stop your medication it is better to do it in discussion with your doctor, and slowly so that you can be monitored for any unpleasant withdrawal effects.
What if I forget a dose of Zuclopenthixol?
Take the missed dose as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at the usual time, then continue your course as prescribed. Do not double the dose or take extra doses. If you miss an injection, contact your nurse or doctor as soon as you remember.

When will Zuclopenthixol start to work?
You may start to feel better in a short time but it can take several weeks or months before you notice the benefits of this medicine.

Are there any side effects?
Zuclopenthixol may cause side effects in some people, but they may vary from person to person. Many side effects wear off over time. Known side effects are:

- drowsiness, dizziness
- stomach upsets
- headaches
- dry mouth or drooling
- appetite/weight changes
- sweating
- skin may be more sensitive to sunlight
- irregular periods or breast changes in women
- Injections can cause swelling, redness and lumps at the site of injection. Tell your nurse if this happens.

Occasionally, more serious side effects can occur. These include:

- rash, itching, swelling
- breathing difficulty
- fever, sore throat
- problems passing water
- muscle stiffness, tremor, restlessness; unusual movements
- stroke especially in older people with dementia
- high fever, stiffness, sweating, unconsciousness – ‘NMS’

If you suffer these or any other side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
If you think a medicine has caused you an unwanted side effect, please report the problem either on a Yellow Card form available from your doctor, nurse or pharmacist OR online at this website [http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/](http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/).
Can I take other medicines?
Other medicines may interact with zuclopenthixol causing unwanted effects. These may include medicines bought over the counter without prescription. Always ask your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines.

Can I drive?
Zuclopenthixol can make you feel sleepy, dizzy and less alert. If you are affected in this way, do not drive or work with machinery.

Can I drink alcohol?
It is best to avoid drinking alcohol while taking zuclopenthixol. The combined effects of zuclopenthixol and alcohol can make you feel more drowsy.

Can I get pregnant or breast feed?
Medicines can have harmful effects at any time during pregnancy. Newborns whose mothers were treated with antipsychotics during pregnancy can show unusual movements and withdrawal side effects. If you are pregnant, or are planning to get pregnant, you should seek advice from your doctor. You and your doctor or specialist will decide if the potential benefits of treatment outweigh the potential risks to the baby.

Zuclopenthixol may pass into breast milk. If you are breastfeeding, you should get your doctors advice.

What alternative treatments are there?
Zuclopenthixol is an antipsychotic medication. Alternative antipsychotic medications with similar effects include haloperidol, chlorpromazine, sulphiride and flupentixol. Other options are the ‘atypical antipsychotics’ for example amisulpride, aripiprazole, clozapine, olanzapine, quetiapine and risperidone.

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to provide you with further information about these medications.

IMPORTANT
Remember to keep medicines where children cannot see or reach them. Never share medicines with others even if their symptoms appear the same as yours.

NEVER EXCEED THE STATED DOSE OF YOUR MEDICINE