

What is Haloperidol and Why is it Prescribed?

Haloperidol is a medication that is prescribed in hospice to relieve and reduce symptoms of nausea and vomiting, agitation, restlessness, and psychosis. This medication can be prescribed in oral liquid, tablet, or injectable forms and can be ordered as a scheduled medication (to use on a daily basis), or to use on an “as needed” basis if you have immediate or sudden symptoms.

What are Common Side Effects of Haloperidol?

Some side effects you may experience include:

- **Drowsiness & Fatigue:** This side effect may occur initially and is usually temporary, subsiding a few days after your body adjusts to the medication.
- **Dizziness & Unsteadiness:** Use caution when walking. When you are changing position (lying to sitting, sitting to standing), move slowly to give your body time to adjust to the change in position. If symptoms continue or get worse, tell your nurse.
- **Stiffness or Trembling:** This side effect may be related to dopamine levels in the body. If you experience this side effect, tell your nurse right away.
- **Some patients** may experience an increase in symptoms such as agitation, restlessness, or excitement. Tell your nurse right away if you experience this side effect.

How Do I Take This Medication?

- Be sure to follow the directions given by your provider. Never use Haloperidol in larger amounts than prescribed.
- Haloperidol tablets may be crushed and mixed with a small amount of liquid or food if you have difficulty swallowing, or an oral liquid form can be ordered.
- A HopeWest nurse will show you how to measure oral liquid medication. The measured dose can be administered under the tongue or against the cheek for ease of swallowing.

What This Medication Will Not Do When Taken As Prescribed:

- When taking Haloperidol as prescribed, this medication will not hasten death and it will not cause addiction.
- As your disease progresses, your body may develop a tolerance to this medication and you may require an increase in your dosage to effectively treat symptoms.

What If I Have Additional Questions About This Medication?

Contact HopeWest at any time for additional questions or assistance. A Registered Nurse is available 24/7, including after hours, weekends, and holidays.