

## Medication Information

### Neuroleptics

**Thorazine (chlorpromazine), Prolixin (fluphenazine ), Haldol (haloperidol)  
Loxitane (loxapine), Moban (molindone), Mellaril (thioridazine)  
Navane (thiothixene), Stelazine (trifluoperazine ), Trilafon (perphenazine)**

These antipsychotic medications are used to treat a variety of problems, such as over activity, preoccupation with troublesome thoughts, agitation, aggressive behaviors, and perceptual distortions. They are useful in the treatment of schizophrenia as well as other serious psychiatric disorders. The daily dosage range varies among the different specific medications.

**Precautions:** To be effective, neuroleptics usually need to be taken on a regular basis, and they should not be discontinued suddenly. Because they can cause drowsiness, dizziness, or blurred vision, do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how you will be affected. It is best to avoid any use of alcohol or street drugs when taking these medications. If there is a possibility you may become pregnant or breast feed, consult with your physician. Avoid direct exposure to sunlight, because your skin may be more sensitive than normally. Wear protective clothing and apply a sun block product that has a skin protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. Use extra care not to become overheated during exercise or hot weather. Smoking increases the metabolism of these medications, leading to unpredictable or diminished effects.

**Common side effects include:** drowsiness, dry mouth, blurred vision, dizziness, difficulty urinating, weight gain, sexual dysfunction, muscle spasms, restlessness, pacing, slowed movement and speech, and a shuffling walk. More serious side effects include tardive dyskinesia (a sometimes irreversible neurological condition characterized by involuntary movements, most often around the mouth) and neuroleptic malignant syndrome (a rare but potentially fatal condition involving high fever, muscle stiffness, confusion, irregular heartbeat, and sweating). Other adverse effects not listed here may occur. Contact your physician if you develop any unusual or disturbing symptoms.

**Alternative Treatments:** Other antipsychotic medications include Risperdal, Zyprexa, Seroquel, Geodon, Abilify, and Clozaril. There are no "natural" substances that have demonstrated antipsychotic effects. Various forms of psychotherapy are often beneficial as adjunctive treatment. Left untreated, psychotic disorders tend to become more severe and chronic.