

What is this medicine for?

Rivastigmine is commonly used to treat symptoms of mild to moderate dementia in Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, such as difficulty remembering recent events, activities, or the names of familiar people or things, poor concentration and judgement. It will not cure or stop the disease from getting worse but it can improve thinking ability in some patients and slow the worsening of some symptoms for a limited time.

The medicine may also be used for other conditions.

Before using this medicine:

Tell the doctor if the patient has or has ever had drug allergies; asthma; breathing problems; liver disease; stomach ulcers; seizures (fits); heart problems (such as slow or irregular heartbeat); difficulty with urination, or is pregnant or breastfeeding.

How to use this medicine?

Administer the medicine according to the label strictly as directed. Do not give more or less of it or give it more often than prescribed by the doctor. Take with food.

The patient has to take it regularly for a few weeks before its full effect is felt. Continue to give the medicine regularly every day even if the patient feels well. Do not stop giving it to the patient without talking to the doctor.

For patients using Rivastigmine patches:

Apply Rivastigmine patch to healthy skin on upper or lower back (may also apply to upper arm and chest). Avoid re-application to the same area for fourteen days. Do not apply to red, irritated or

broken skin, and avoid areas where lotion or powder was recently applied. Do not expose patch to external sources of heat (eg. excessive light, sauna) for prolonged periods, and the existing patch must be removed before a new one is applied. Apply at the same time daily. NEVER cut the patch with scissors.

Precautions while administering this medicine:

- Rivastigmine may cause drowsiness or reduce alertness. Do not let the patient drive or operate machinery if affected.
- When Rivastigmine is taken with some other medicines, it may affect how they work. Be sure that you tell all doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other health care providers who treat the patient about all medicines and natural remedies that the patient is taking. This is especially important before any kind of surgery, dental or emergency treatment.
- Try to avoid alcohol while on this medication as alcohol may potentiate side effects caused by the medicine.
- Try to avoid smoking while on this medication. Cigarette smoking may affect the amount of Rivastigmine that stays in the body.

What should I do if I forget to give a dose?

Give the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is more than half way between the doses, skip the missed dose and serve the medicine at the usual time.

Do not serve two doses at the same time to make up for a missed one.

If the dose is missed for several days in a row, do not start back on the same dose. Consult your doctor on what dose you should give.

Possible Side Effects

Like all medications, this medication may also cause some POSSIBLE side effects in some people. Everyone responds differently to medications; so not everyone experiences any or all of them.

COMMON (Generally affect up to 10% of patients)

Most of these side effects below will get better or go away completely with continued medication taking as your body gets used to this medication. Contact your doctor or pharmacist should they become too bothersome to you.

- ~ Nausea or vomiting
- ~ Dizziness (getting up slowly from sitting or lying down position may help to lessen the dizziness)
- ~ Loss of appetite
- ~ Diarrhoea
- ~ Stomach pain or indigestion
- ~ Headache
- ~ Unusual tiredness
- ~ Sleepiness
- ~ Alertness

FOR URGENT ATTENTION:

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following:

- ~ Allergic reaction: Skin rash or itching
- ~ Difficulty in breathing
- ~ Bloody or black tarry stools
- ~ Vomiting of blood or material that looks like coffee grounds
- ~ Fainting
- ~ Tremors or shaking
- ~ Muscle weakness
- ~ Seizures (fits)
- ~ Chest pain, slow or irregular heartbeat
- ~ Difficulty or pain in passing urine
- ~ Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not present), anxiety or low mood
- ~ Eye pain, changes in vision

If you have any concerns about your medications or if you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, please consult with your doctor or pharmacist.

Where should I store the medicine?

Store this medicine at room temperature, away from direct light, heat and moisture (not in the bathroom) and out of reach of children.

Throw away any medication that is expired or no longer needed.

Do not share the medicine with other people.

Ask the doctor or pharmacist for more information or if you have any questions.

Institute of Mental Health

Pharmacy Department

10 Buangkok View
Singapore 539747

For medication enquiries: (during office hours)

IMH Clinic B/ Sayang Wellness Pharmacy: 63892077

IMH Clinic C (NAMS) Pharmacy: 63893666

Community Wellness Centre Pharmacy: 64715797

Geylang Behavioural Medicine Pharmacy: 67461724

Child Guidance Clinic (HPB) Pharmacy: 64353807

Child Guidance (Sunrise Wing) Pharmacy: 63892410

Email: enquiry@imh.com.sg

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Patient Information Leaflet on

RIVASTIGMINE

