

Antipsychotic depot injections – suggested doses and frequencies

David Taylor and Denise Duncan

Drug	Trade name	Test dose (mg)	Dose range (mg)/week	Dosing interval (weeks)	Comments
Flupenthixol decanoate	Depixol	20	12.5–400	2–4	Mood elevating; may worsen agitation
Fluphenazine decanoate	Modecate	12.5	6.25–50	2–5	Avoid in depression. High EPSE
Fluspirilene (aqueous suspension)	Redeptin	2	2–20	1	Painful, short lived but low incidence of sedation
Haloperidol decanoate	Haldol	25*	12.5–75	4	High EPSE, low incidence of sedation
Pipothiazine palmitate	Piportil	25	12.5–50	4	Lower incidence of EPSE
Zuclopenthixol decanoate	Clopixol	100	100–600	2–4	Useful in agitation and aggression

**Notes**

Give a quarter or half-stated dose in elderly.  
 After test dose, wait 4–10 days before starting titration to maintenance therapy.  
 Dose range is given in mg/week for convenience only – avoid using shorter dose intervals than those recommended except in exceptional circumstances e.g. long interval necessitates high volume (>3–4ml) injection.  
 EPSE = extrapyramidal side effects

\*Test dose not stated by manufacturer

**Data sources**

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society and The British Medical Association. British National Formulary, No 28, 1994. Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. Data Sheet Compendium, 1994–95.

**Investigation into the use of clozapine and risperidone**

National Schizophrenia Fellowship (NSF) in conjunction with the Royal College of Psychiatrists are currently undertaking an investigation into the use of clozapine and risperidone, particularly in relation to financial cost. Gary Hogman, Research and Campaigning Manager at NSF's National Office, 28 Castle Street, Kingston upon

Thames, Surrey KT1 1SS would be grateful to receive any information regarding the use of these drugs which may be of interest to the investigation. Readers who have received a copy of the questionnaire are asked to return it to Mr Hogman as soon as possible. The research is independent of drug company involvement.