

An antipsychotic

Aripiprazole (ah-rip-ip-ra-zole)

You should read this leaflet with your carer/caregiver.



Aripiprazole:

- Is also called Abilify and Abilify Discmelt.
- Come as tablets or liquid.

- Aripiprazole is used for psychosis, schizophrenia and mania.
- Aripiprazole is sometimes used for people who are distressed. There is no clear evidence that it improves someone's behaviour.

The label on your aripiprazole packet should tell you when and how much medicine to take.

Swallow your tablet with water or measure and swallow the liquid.

If you have Abilify Discmelt, you should let the tablet melt on your tongue and swallow or mix it in any drink but NOT coke.

If you forget to take your medicine, tell someone straight away.

You should carry on taking your medicine even if you feel better unless your doctor asks you to stop.



Drinking alcohol when taking aripiprazole could make you feel sleepy.

Some medicines do not work well together.

You should tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.

Side effects:

- Medicine can have some effects on your body that are not wanted.
- Not everyone taking a medicine will get them.
- Many will go away with time.
- Many are rare.

You might want to talk to your doctor or the pharmacist or your key worker if you have any side effect.

These are some (but NOT all) side effects of aripiprazole...



- May increase your blood sugar level (check blood test)
- May increase your blood fat (cholesterol) (check blood test)
- Feeling restless and agitated
- You may lose interest in sex
- Get sunburnt easily (take precaution)
- Problem sleeping
- Constipation or upset tummy
- You may lose interest in sex
- Headache

Some side effects are more serious.

You should tell someone straight away if you have...

- High temperature and stiffness (check blood test)
- Shaky movements in face, mouth, arms and legs
- Sweating and loss of senses (check blood test)



You should talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medicine.

Sometimes, if you stop taking your medicine, you may have:

- Stiffness
- Problem moving
- Distressing behaviour
- Restlessness and anxiety





This leaflet does not tell you everything about aripiprazole.

You can get more information from:

- your pharmacist, doctor, nurse or carer/ care giver
- check <http://www.choiceandmedication.org/cnwl/>
- NHS on 111
- medicine information helpline on 020 3317 5090.

This leaflet can be downloaded free of charge from:

<https://spectrom.wixsite.com/project>

While preparing this leaflet we checked information in...

- The British National Formulary (www.bnf.org)
- Dulcan, M. K., & Ballard, R. (2015). *Helping parents and teachers understand medications for behavioural and emotional problems: A resource book of medication information handouts*. American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC, USA.

This leaflet is not designed for people with intellectual/learning disabilities to read on their own. Support (care) staff or care givers should go through the leaflet with the person who has intellectual disabilities.

All images copyright © Photosymbols.

This is an unofficial leaflet produced by Professor Shoumitro (Shoumi) Deb and Ms. Bharati Limbu of Imperial College London, UK and Dr Gemma Unwin, University of Birmingham, UK with help from Cornwall Learning Disability Advisory Group. The project is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), UK and sponsored by ©CNWL NHS Trust UK. Any adaptation or translation of this leaflet has to acknowledge fully the original source with author affiliation and copyright information and be made available free of charge. 01.07.2020.