

Geodon (ziprasidone)



What is it usually prescribed for?

Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other conditions.



How does it work?

Geodon helps improve thinking, mood, and behavior. It helps balance the brain chemicals dopamine and serotonin.



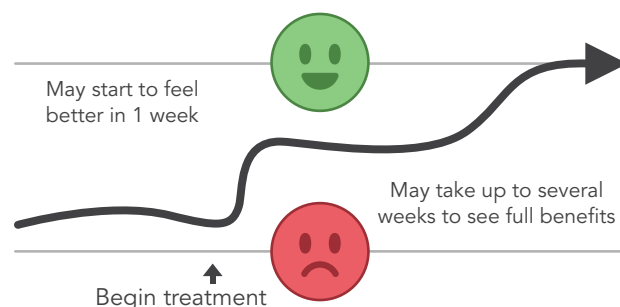
What should I expect?

Symptoms get better the longer you take Geodon. Some symptoms may improve within 1 week. It may take several weeks for you to see the full benefits of Geodon.

Your healthcare professional will start with a low dose that is slowly increased to find the best dose that works for you. Tell your healthcare professional about how it's working for you and if you have any side effects, so the dose can be changed if needed.

Take Geodon exactly as prescribed to get the full benefit of this medicine. For example, Geodon should be taken with food (at 500 calories, or a turkey sandwich and a piece of fruit) for best absorption.

WHEN WILL I FEEL BETTER?



Will I have side effects?

You may or may not have side effects when taking Geodon. Some side effects go away with time, but others require changes to the medicine. The risk of some side effects increases with larger doses.

In most cases, treatment is necessary for a long time to control symptoms. Long treatment may increase the chances of some side effects like weight gain, uncontrollable movements, and high prolactin. Prolactin is a hormone that affects sexual function, among other things.

What are common side effects and what can I do to feel better?

If your side effects are mild, talk to your healthcare professional about them at your next appointment.

	Drink less alcohol	Do more exercise	Drink plenty of water	Healthcare professional suggestion
Feeling drowsy	X	X	X	
Feeling restless		X		
Constipation		X	X	
Nausea	X			
Feeling dizzy	X		X	
Headache	X	X	X	

Note: This is not a complete list of side effects; other side effects are possible. Before starting Geodon, tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you are taking to avoid unexpected side effects.



Neuroscience Education Institute

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YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

In 2019, Geodon was prescribed nearly 1.3 million times in the United States.

What should I avoid?

Don't start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional first. There are interactions with medicines that may increase your chance of side effects.

Do not suddenly stop taking Geodon unless your healthcare professional has told you to, because your symptoms may return.

Avoid alcohol, recreational drugs, and prescription opioid medications. They may decrease the benefits of Geodon and increase the chance of side effects.

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER



It may take up to a few weeks for you to feel the full benefits of taking this medicine



Tell your healthcare professional about any troubling side effects so that you can work together to address them



Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine unless told to do so by your healthcare professional



Don't start any new medicines, over-the-counter drugs, or herbal remedies without talking to your healthcare professional



Get medical care right away if you have serious side effects



When should I call a healthcare professional right away or visit the emergency room?

If you have any **serious** side effects. Here are some examples of serious side effects:

- Thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself
- Fast or pounding heartbeats, shortness of breath, and sudden dizziness
- Uncontrolled muscle movements in your face
- Any skin rash
- Fever, mouth sores, skin sores, sore throat, cough, trouble breathing
- Increased thirst, increased urination, dry mouth, fruity breath odor
- Very stiff (rigid) muscles, high fever, sweating, confusion, agitation

If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center (800-222-1222) or get medical care right away.



Where can I get more help?

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – [nami.org](https://www.nami.org)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line – Text “HELLO” to 741741



Notes and questions for my next appointment

