

[Home](#)

2. Fluphenazine

Fluphenazine

Generic name: fluphenazine (oral/injection) [*floo-FEN-a-zeen*]**Brand names:** Permitil, [Prolixin](#), [Prolixin Decanoate](#), Prolixin Enanthate**Dosage forms:** injectable solution (2.5 mg/mL; decanoate 25 mg/mL), oral concentrate (5 mg/mL), oral elixir (2.5 mg/5 mL), ... [show all 4 dosage forms](#)**Drug class:** [Phenothiazine antipsychotics](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Jul 24, 2023. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is fluphenazine?

Fluphenazine is a phenothiazine (FEEN-oh-THYE-a-zeen) antipsychotic medicine that is used to treat psychotic disorders such as [schizophrenia](#).

Fluphenazine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Fluphenazine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) **or a severe skin reaction** (fever, [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

High doses or long-term use of fluphenazine can cause a serious movement disorder that may not be reversible.

The longer you use fluphenazine, the more likely you are to develop this disorder, especially if you are an older adult.

Fluphenazine may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- uncontrolled muscle movements in your face (chewing, lip smacking, frowning, tongue movement, blinking or eye movement);
- extreme [drowsiness](#) or light-headed feeling (like you might pass out);
- strange dreams, or if you feel restless or excited;
- blurred vision, tunnel vision, eye pain, or seeing halos around lights;
- painful or difficult urination;
- severe [constipation](#), stomach pain, bloating;
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- a seizure; or

- **low white blood cell counts**--fever, chills, mouth sores, skin sores, sore throat, cough, trouble breathing, feeling light-headed.

Common side effects of fluphenazine may include:

- drowsiness, headache, blurred vision;
- problems with balance or muscle movement;
- nausea, loss of appetite, constipation;
- swelling, weight changes;
- stuffy nose, [dry mouth](#), or drooling;
- increased sweating or urination;
- breast swelling or tenderness; or
- impotence, trouble having an orgasm.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Fluphenazine side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

FEATURED

Repatha

Repatha (evolocumab) is a PCSK9 inhibitor used to lower high cholesterol alongside dietary changes ...

Reviews & ratings

5.3 / 10

[685 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Fanapt

Fanapt (iloperidone) is an antipsychotic medication used to treat schizophrenia. Includes Fanapt ...

Reviews & ratings

6.4 / 10

[30 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

You should not use fluphenazine if you have [liver disease](#), brain damage, severe [depression](#), a blood cell disorder, or if you are also using large amounts of alcohol or medicines that make you sleepy.

Fluphenazine is not approved for use in older adults with dementia-related psychosis.

Call your doctor at once if you have uncontrollable movements of your eyes, lips, tongue, face, arms, or legs. These could be early signs of dangerous side effects.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use fluphenazine if you are allergic to fluphenazine or other phenothiazines ([chlorpromazine](#), [perphenazine](#), [prochlorperazine](#), [promethazine](#), [thioridazine](#), [trifluoperazine](#)), or if you have:

- liver disease;
- brain damage;
- severe depression; or
- a blood cell disorder (such as low platelets or low red or white blood cell counts).

Do not use fluphenazine if you have recently used large amounts of alcohol or medicine that makes you sleepy.

Fluphenazine may increase the risk of death in older adults with dementia-related psychosis and is not approved for this use.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart problems;
- liver or kidney disease;
- low white blood cell (WBC) counts;
- [breast cancer](#);
- glaucoma;
- [Parkinson's disease](#);
- seizures; or
- [pheochromocytoma](#) (tumor of the adrenal gland).

Tell your doctor if you will be exposed to extreme heat or cold, or to insecticide poisons while you are using fluphenazine.

Fluphenazine is not approved for use by anyone younger than 12 years old.

Using antipsychotic medicine in the last 3 months of pregnancy may cause breathing problems, feeding problems, or withdrawal symptoms in the newborn. If you get pregnant, tell your doctor right away. **Do not stop using fluphenazine without your doctor's advice.**

Fluphenazine may cause false results on a pregnancy test. Tell your doctor if you think you might be pregnant.

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

How should I use fluphenazine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Fluphenazine **oral** is taken by mouth.

Measure **liquid medicine** carefully. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Fluphenazine **oral concentrate** solution must be mixed with at least 2 ounces (1/4 cup) of a liquid such as milk, tomato juice, fruit juice (but not apple juice), or a soft drink that does not contain caffeine.

Fluphenazine **injection** is injected into a muscle or under the skin by a healthcare provider. Fluphenazine is usually given by injection only after you have taken the medicine by mouth for a certain period of time.

Fluphenazine **injection** stays in your body longer than the oral form, and the injections are not given daily. **Follow your doctor's dosing instructions very carefully.**

You may need frequent medical tests. Your next dose may be delayed based on the results.

If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using fluphenazine.

Do not stop using fluphenazine suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to safely stop using this medicine.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light. Do not allow liquid medicine to freeze.

Fluphenazine dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Psychosis:

Oral:

- Initial dose: 2.5 to 10 mg orally in divided doses every 6 to 8 hours
- Maintenance dose: 1 to 5 mg/day
- Maximum dose: Up to 40 mg/day

Oral Comments:

- Maintenance doses may be given as single daily doses.
- Many patients achieve therapeutic effect with doses of less than 20 mg. Patients who are severely disturbed or inadequately controlled may require a dose of up to 40 mg/day.

Parenteral:

Fluphenazine Decanoate for Injection:

- Initial dose: 12.5 to 25 mg deep IM injection into the gluteal region
- Maintenance dose: 12.5 to 100 mg IM, usually every 3 to 4 weeks
- Maximum dose: 100 mg/injection

Fluphenazine HCl for Injection:

- Initial dose: 2.5 to 10 mg IM, given as divided doses every 6 to 8 hours
- Maximum dose: Up to 10 mg/day

Parenteral Comments:

-Patients may switch from Fluphenazine HCl for Injection to oral formulations when symptoms are controlled. The dose of an oral formulation is approximately 2 to 3 times the dose of fluphenazine HCl for injection.

-Fluphenazine decanoate for injection may be given subcutaneously.

Uses:

-Management of manifestations of schizophrenia

-Management of patients requiring prolonged parenteral neuroleptic therapy (e.g., patients with chronic schizophrenia)

Usual Geriatric Dose for Psychosis:

Oral:

-Initial dose: 1 to 2.5 mg orally, given in divided doses every 6 to 8 hours

-Maintenance dose: 1 to 5 mg/day

-Maximum dose: Up to 40 mg

Comments:

-Maintenance doses may be given as a single dose.

-Many patients achieve therapeutic effect with doses less than 20 mg. Patients who are severely disturbed or inadequately controlled may require a dose of up to 40 mg/day.

Use: Management of manifestations of schizophrenia

 [Detailed Fluphenazine dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss an appointment for your fluphenazine injection.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

What should I avoid while using fluphenazine?

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how fluphenazine will affect you. Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.

Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy.

Drinking alcohol with this medicine can cause side effects.

Fluphenazine could make you sunburn more easily. Avoid sunlight or tanning beds. Wear protective clothing and use [sunscreen](#) (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

What other drugs will affect fluphenazine?

Using fluphenazine with other drugs that make you drowsy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

Other drugs may affect fluphenazine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

 [Fluphenazine drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does fluphenazine interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

Add

Frequently asked questions

- [What drugs cause tardive dyskinesia?](#)

More about fluphenazine

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(24\)](#)
- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: phenothiazine antipsychotics](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Fluphenazine Tablets patient information](#)
- [Fluphenazine Decanoate Injection](#)
- [Fluphenazine Elixir](#)

- [Fluphenazine Injection](#)
- [Fluphenazine Oral Concentrate](#)

Professional resources

- [FluPHENAZine monograph](#)
- [Fluphenazine Elixir \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluphenazine Hydrochloride Injection \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluphenazine Injection \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluphenazine Oral Solution \(FDA\)](#)
- [Fluphenazine Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Prolixin](#), [Prolixin Decanoate](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Psychosis](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 11.01.

DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only


[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

5.8 / 10

[24 Reviews](#)

Images

Fluphenazine Hydrochloride 1 mg (D5)



[View larger images](#)

Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

[About Drugs.com](#)
[Advertising policy](#)
[Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

[Terms of use](#)
[Editorial policy](#)
[Privacy policy](#)

Support

[Help center](#)
[Sitemap](#)
[Contact us](#)



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT

Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.

