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Vraylar

Pronunciation: *VRAY-lar*

Generic name: [cariprazine](#)

Dosage form: capsules (1.5mg, 3mg, 4.5mg, 6mg)

Drug class: [Atypical antipsychotics](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Mar 19, 2024.

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What is Vraylar?

Vraylar ([cariprazine](#)) is used to treat types of [bipolar](#) I disorder, major depressive disorder (MDD), and schizophrenia. Vraylar works to improve depression symptoms in bipolar depression and major depressive disorder and to improve psychiatric signs and symptoms in schizophrenia. Vraylar capsules are taken once a day.

Vraylar is thought to work by managing serotonin and dopamine levels, which are chemical messengers in the brain. Vraylar is thought to have this effect (mechanism of action) by having a combination of partial agonist activity at central dopamine D and serotonin 5-HT1A receptors and antagonist activity at serotonin 5-HT2A receptors. Vraylar is from the drug class of medications called atypical antipsychotics.

Vraylar originally became an FDA-approved medicine on September 17, 2015. Vraylar has FDA approval to treat adults with:

- schizophrenia
- acute manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I
- depressive episodes associated with bipolar I disorder (bipolar depression)
- major depressive disorder (MDD) as an add-on treatment with an antidepressant therapy (ADT).

Vraylar side effects

Common Vraylar side effects may include sleepiness, nausea, vomiting, indigestion, constipation, feeling tired, trouble sleeping, increased appetite, dizziness, involuntary muscle movements, feeling restless, [upset stomach](#), difficulty moving, or slow movements.

Vraylar may cause weight gain. You and your healthcare provider should check your weight before you start and often during treatment.

Serious Vraylar side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have signs of an allergic reaction to Vraylar, including hives, difficulty breathing, and swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- sudden numbness or weakness (especially on one side of the body);
- problems with vision or speech,
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- severe distress or [agitation](#);
- a seizure;
- uncontrolled muscle movements in your face (chewing, lip smacking, frowning, tongue movement, blinking, or eye movement);
- trouble swallowing or accidentally inhaling food or drink;
- low white blood cell counts - fever, chills, [sore throat](#), mouth sores, skin sores, sore throat, cough, trouble breathing, feeling light-headed;
- high blood sugar - increased thirst, increased urination, dry mouth, fruity breath odor; or
- severe nervous system reaction - very stiff (rigid) muscles, high fever, sweating, confusion, fast or uneven heartbeats, tremors, feeling like you might pass out.

Vraylar can have long-lasting effects on your body. Some side effects could occur for several weeks after you stop using this medicine. You may also have new side effects whenever your dose is changed.

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 the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

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

Related/similar drugs

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Warnings

Vraylar is not approved for use in older adults with [dementia-related](#) psychosis.

Vraylar may disrupt the body's ability to reduce core body temperature. Strenuous exercise, exposure to extreme heat, dehydration, and anticholinergic medications may cause an increase in body temperature. Use this medicine with caution in these circumstances.

Vraylar and antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some children and young adults,

especially within the first few months of treatment or when the dose is changed. Depression and other mental illnesses are the most important causes of suicidal thoughts and actions.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Vraylar if you are allergic to cariprazine.

Vraylar is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

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

To make sure Vraylar is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- heart disease, [high blood pressure](#);
- a stroke or blood clot;
- [high cholesterol](#) or triglycerides (a type of fat in the blood);
- liver or kidney disease
- diabetes or high blood sugar, or a family history of diabetes or high blood sugar
- have or had a low white blood cell count
- have or had seizures (convulsions)
- if you are dehydrated

Taking antipsychotic medicine in the last 3 months of pregnancy may cause withdrawal symptoms, breathing problems, feeding problems, fussiness, tremors, and limp or stiff muscles in the newborn. If you get pregnant, tell your doctor right away. Do not stop taking Vraylar without your doctor's advice.

If you are pregnant, your name may be listed on a pregnancy registry to track the effects of cariprazine on the baby.

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

 [Vraylar pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Vraylar?

Take Vraylar once a day, with or without food.

General Vraylar dose information.

It may take several weeks before your symptoms improve. Keep using the medication as directed, and tell your doctor if your symptoms do not improve.

Take Vraylar exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose.

High doses or long-term use of Vraylar can cause a serious movement disorder that may not be reversible. The longer you use this medicine, the more likely you are to develop this disorder, especially if you are an older adult. Symptoms of this disorder include tremors or other uncontrollable muscle movements.

Tell your doctor if you have any changes in weight while taking this medicine.

Your blood pressure and heart rate will need to be checked often. You may also need frequent blood tests.

Vraylar capsules are available as 1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg, and 6 mg.

 [Detailed Vraylar 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.

What happens if I overdose?

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

What to avoid

Avoid drinking alcohol. Dangerous side effects could occur.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy. [Dizziness](#) or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.

While you are taking Vraylar, you may be more sensitive to temperature extremes such as very hot conditions. Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated. Drink plenty of fluids, especially in hot weather and during exercise.

What other drugs will affect Vraylar?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medications at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you take, which may increase side effects or make the medications less effective.

Taking Vraylar with other drugs that make you sleepy or slow your breathing can cause dangerous side effects or death. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for [anxiety](#) or [seizures](#).

Many drugs can interact with cariprazine. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible interactions are listed here. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

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

Does Vraylar interact with my other drugs?

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

Vraylar

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Ingredients

Active ingredient: cariprazine

Inactive ingredients: gelatin, magnesium stearate, pregelatinized starch, shellac, and titanium dioxide.

Colorants include: black iron oxide, FD&C Blue 1, FD&C Red 3, FD&C Red 40, or yellow iron oxide.

Storage

Store Vraylar at room temperature, between 68°F to 77°F (20°C to 25°C).

Company

Manufactured by: Forest Laboratories Ireland Limited, Dublin, IE.

Distributed by: Allergan USA, Inc. Madison, NJ 07940.

Popular FAQ

Vraylar vs Abilify - How do they compare?



What are 6 Vraylar side effects you need to be aware of?



Should you take Vraylar in the morning or at night?



How long does it take for Vraylar (cariprazine) to work?



How does Vraylar compare with Seroquel?



Do Vraylar (cariprazine) side effects go away?



Does Vraylar (cariprazine) cause weight gain?



Does caffeine affect Vraylar (cariprazine)?



Does Vraylar (cariprazine) make you sleepy?



[View more FAQ...](#)

References

1. [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Vraylar Product Label](#)

More about Vraylar (cariprazine)

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Professional resources

- [Vraylar prescribing information](#)
- [Cariprazine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Major Depressive Disorder](#)
- [Bipolar Disorder](#)
- [Schizophrenia](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Vraylar 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](#)


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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History

9
years FDA approved 2015



User Reviews & Ratings

6.1 / 10

[520 Reviews](#)

Images

[Vraylar 1.5 mg \(FL 1.5\)](#)



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