

Rivastigmine (Exelon®)

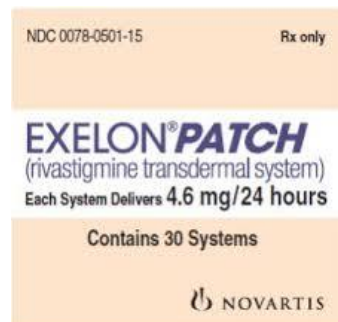
Dementia Drug Education Handout



Why is this drug is used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treatment of mild to severe stages of Alzheimer's Disease.		
Typical dosing: ***If you miss taking doses or stop this drug for three days or more, please contact your doctor because the dose of the capsules or patch may need to be restarted at a lower dose.***	Capsule, immediate release: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin with 1.5 mg daily.• May increase the dose by 3 mg daily every 2 weeks if no significant side effects.• Maximum daily dose is 6 mg twice daily. Patch, transdermal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begin with a 4.6 mg patch daily.• May increase the dose every 4 weeks to one 9.5 mg patch then to one 13.3 mg patch daily if no significant side effects.		
Available Formulations & Estimated Cost:	1. Capsule (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg, 6 mg <u>Cost (30 day supply):</u> Generic \$65 - \$100; Brand \$375 2. Patch, transdermal (brand & generic) <u>Strengths:</u> 4.6 mg/24hr, 9.5 mg/24hr, 13.3 mg/24hr <u>Cost (30 day supply):</u> Generic \$170 - \$300; Brand \$650		
Contraindications & Precautions for this drug:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hypersensitivity to Rivastigmine, history of application site reactions. May include: swelling, rash, hives.		
Common Side Effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dizziness• Headaches• Patch site reaction• Tremor• Weight loss• Nausea• Vomiting• Diarrhea		



Managing this medication:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take at breakfast and dinner. Taking Rivastigmine with food may minimize side effects. 2. Take this drug at the same time each day. 3. <i>Inform your health-care provider if you experience: dizziness, headaches, weight loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, a skin reaction to the patch or other side effects</i>
How to Apply the Patch:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put patch on clean and dry skin on the upper or lower back. If you are unable to do this, put patch on upper arm or chest. • Rotate the site of placement for the patch. • If the patch falls off, put a new one on. • Take off the old patch before you put on a new one on. • Place a new patch at the same time each day. It is a 24 hour patch that needs to be removed and replaced with a new patch. • To dispose of used patches, fold the sticky sides of the patch to each other. • Caution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▸ Wearing more than 1 patch at a time can lead to overdose. ▸ Do not cut the patch as this could decrease the dose. ▸ When wearing the patch, do not use heat sources such as sunlamps, electric blankets, or hot tubs. ▸ Avoid long, hot baths or sunbathing.



References:

1. Lexicomp – rivastigmine tartrate, rivastigmine, Exelon®
2. Red Book Average Wholesale Price of Drugs 2016 and goodrx.com
3. Kirby Lee, PharmD, MA, MAS and Ron Finley, RPh, UCSF Memory and Aging Center