

Galantamine (Razadyne®)

Dementia Drug Education Handout



Why is this drug used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of mild to moderate stages of Alzheimer's disease. 		
Typical dosing:	<p>Tablet or Solution, immediate release:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with 4 mg twice daily. • May increase the dose in 4 week intervals if no significant side effects. 4 mg → 8 mg → 12 mg, twice daily (4-weeks = →) <p>Capsule, extended release:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin with 8 mg daily. • May increase the dose in 4 week intervals if no significant side effects. 8 mg → 16 mg → 24 mg, once daily (4-weeks = →) • If your drug is stopped for 3 or more days, restart at the lowest dose and increase dose every 4 weeks to current dose. 		
Available Formulations & Estimated Cost:	<p>1. Tablet, immediate release (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 4 mg, 8 mg, 12 mg <u>Cost (30 day supply):</u> Generic \$190; Brand \$320</p> <p>2. Capsule, extended release (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 8 mg, 16 mg, 24 mg <u>Cost (30 day supply):</u> Generic \$190; Brand \$320</p> <p>3. Solution, immediate release (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 4 mg/mL <u>Cost (30 day supply):</u> Generic \$290; Brand \$350</p>		
Contraindications & Precautions for this drug:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypersensitivity to galantamine. May include: swelling, rash, hives. 		
Common Side Effects:	Dizziness Headache Upset stomach	Vomiting Diarrhea Weight loss	Shakiness Slow heartbeat

Managing this medication:

1. Take this drug at the same time each day.
2. Take it with food may minimize side effects.
3. *Inform your health-care provider RIGHT AWAY if you experience:* very bad dizziness, slow heartbeat, black or bloody stools, throwing up blood or throw up that looks like coffee grounds, seizures, very upset stomach, a big weight loss, shakiness, diarrhea or other side effects.



References:

1. Lexicomp – galantamine, Razadyne®
2. Red Book Average Wholesale Price of Drugs 2013
3. Kirby Lee, PharmD, MA, MAS and Ron Finley, RPh, UCSF Memory and Aging Center