

ABILIFY(TM)

Aripiprazole

Consumer Medicine Information

Patient's Name

First Address Line

Second Address Line

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about ABILIFY. It does not contain all the available information. Some of the information contained in this leaflet may not apply to you.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking ABILIFY against the benefits it is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What ABILIFY is used for

ABILIFY is a trade name (manufacturer's name) for the medicine aripiprazole (Ari-pip-rah-zol). ABILIFY is used to treat symptoms of schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a mental illness with disturbances in thinking, feelings and behaviour.

ABILIFY belongs to a group of medicines called antipsychotic agents. It helps to correct chemical imbalances in the brain, which may cause schizophrenia.

Your doctor may have prescribed ABILIFY for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any

questions about why ABILIFY has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence that ABILIFY is addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

ABILIFY is not recommended for use in children under the age of 18, as safety and efficacy have not been established in this age group.

Before you take ABILIFY

When you must not take it

Do not take ABILIFY if you have an allergy to:

- * aripiprazole
- * any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Symptoms of an allergic reaction include:

- * rash, itching or hives on the skin
- * shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- * swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat or other parts of the body

Do not take ABILIFY after the expiry or use by date printed on the pack.

If you take this medicine after this date has passed, it may not work as well.

Do not take ABILIFY if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If this is the case, return it to your pharmacist.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking ABILIFY, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:

- * any other medicines
- * any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Like most antipsychotic medicines, ABILIFY is not recommended for use during pregnancy. If you need to take ABILIFY during your pregnancy, your doctor or pharmacist will discuss with you the benefits and risks of taking it.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.

It is recommended that you do not breast-feed while taking ABILIFY, as it may pass into breast milk and therefore there is a possibility that the breast-fed baby may be affected.

Tell your doctor if you have, or have had any medical conditions, especially the following

- * a reaction to some medicines with a sudden increase in body temperature, sweating, fast heart beat, muscle stiffness and fluctuating blood pressure, which may lead to coma. This reaction is called neuroleptic malignant syndrome
- * a reaction to some medicines with abnormal movements of the tongue, or other uncontrolled

movements of the mouth, tongue, cheeks or jaw which may progress to the arms and legs. This reaction is called tardive dyskinesia.

- * low blood pressure
- * epilepsy, seizures or fits
- * problems with your oesophagus such as difficulty in swallowing.

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

Your doctor may advise you to avoid alcohol as it can magnify the side-effects of this medicine.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you start taking ABILIFY.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and ABILIFY may interfere with each other. These include:

- * medicines used to treat brain disorders such as, anxiety, depression, mood swings, epilepsy or seizures, Parkinson's disease or insomnia.
- * medicines used to treat high blood pressure
- * medicines used to treat fungal infections
- * medicines used to treat heart rhythm disturbances
- * medicines used to treat bacterial or viral infections
- * a medicine called cyclosporin (Cysporin(R); Neoral(R); Sandimmun(R))
- * a medicine called cimetidine (Tagamet(R); Magicul(R); Sigmetadine(R))

These medicines may be affected by ABILIFY, or may affect how well it works. Eating grapefruit or drinking grapefruit juice may affect how ABILIFY works.

Your doctor or pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking ABILIFY.

How to take ABILIFY

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you how much you will need to take each day. This will depend on your condition and whether you are taking any other medicines.

The label put on the carton by the pharmacist will tell you how much you should take.

If you do not understand the instructions on the carton, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How to take it

ABILIFY tablets should be swallowed whole and washed down with a glass of water.

Take ABILIFY at about the same time each day.

Unless your doctor gives you other directions, you should take ABILIFY only once a day.

Taking the medicine at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

It does not matter whether you take ABILIFY with or without food.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

How long to take it

Continue taking ABILIFY for as long as your doctor tells you.

ABILIFY helps to control your condition but does not cure it. Therefore you must take ABILIFY every day. Do not stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to - even if you feel better.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or pharmacist or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 131126), or go to the Accident Emergency Centre at your nearest hospital, if you or anyone else may have taken too much ABILIFY. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

While you are taking ABILIFY

Things you must do

Tell any doctors, dentists or pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking ABILIFY.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor, dentist and pharmacist that you are taking ABILIFY.

If you plan to have any kind of surgery that needs a general anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking ABILIFY.

If you become pregnant while taking ABILIFY, tell your doctor immediately.

Be sure to keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Things you must not do

Do not give ABILIFY to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar or they have the same condition as you.

Do not take ABILIFY to treat any other complaints unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you to.

Do not stop taking ABILIFY or lower the dosage, even if you are feeling better, without checking with your doctor.

If you stop taking ABILIFY suddenly your condition may worsen.

Do not take more of this medicine and do not take it more often than your doctor has ordered.

Things to be careful of

Make sure that you know how you react to ABILIFY before you drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or light headed or not alert.

ABILIFY may cause some people to become drowsy or less alert than they are normally or cause light-headedness, dizziness or tiredness. If this occurs do not undertake the activity.

If ABILIFY makes you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint, be careful when getting up from a sitting or lying position.

Getting up slowly may help.

Be careful when drinking alcohol while taking ABILIFY

Your doctor may suggest you avoid alcohol while you are being treated with ABILIFY.

Make sure you keep cool in hot weather and keep warm in cool weather.

ABILIFY may affect the way your body reacts to temperature changes. It may prevent sweating, even during heatwaves. You may feel dizzy or faint if you are too hot. To stay cool in hot weather, try to do the following:

- * wear light clothing
- * spend time in air-conditioned environments (or keep windows open and use electric fans)
- * drink plenty of water
- * take cool baths or showers and avoid hot baths and saunas
- * try to restrict exercise or heavy work to cool parts of the day

Side-Effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ABILIFY.

Like other medicines ABILIFY may cause some unwanted side effects. These are likely to vary from patient to patient. ABILIFY is generally well-tolerated and the side effects are often hard to distinguish from disease symptoms. It is important that you tell your doctor as soon as possible about any unwanted effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects and they worry you:

- * headache
- * indigestion
- * nausea
- * vomiting
- * insomnia
- * lightheadedness
- * drowsiness
- * agitation
- * anxiety

These are the more common side effects of ABILIFY

Tell your doctor if you notice the following side effect

- * feeling dizzy especially when getting up from a lying or sitting position

This side effect is less common.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- * seizure, fits or convulsions.
- * abnormal movements of the tongue, or other uncontrolled movements of the tongue, mouth, cheeks, or jaw which may progress to the arms and legs.
- * sudden increase in body temperature, sweating, fast heart beat, muscle stiffness, high blood pressure and convulsions.
- * rash
- * allergic reaction.

These are very serious side effects.

You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

All of these side effects are very rare.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any or only some of them.

After using ABILIFY

Storage

Store ABILIFY in a cool place where the temperature stays below 30 degrees C.

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines. Do not keep outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking ABILIFY or the medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any left over medicine.

Be sure that any discarded medicine is out of the reach of children.

Product Description

What it looks like

10mg ABILIFY tablets are pink, rectangular with a bevel edge and are marked on one side with "A-008" and "10".

15mg ABILIFY tablets are yellow, round with a bevel edge and are marked on one side with "A-009" and "15".

20mg ABILIFY tablets are white to pale yellowish white, round with a bevel edge and are marked on one side with "A-010" and "20".

30mg ABILIFY tablets are pink, round with a bevel edge and are marked on one side with "A-011" and "30".

ABILIFY tablets are packed in aluminium blisters in a carton. Each carton contains 30 tablets.

Ingredients

Active ingredients: aripiprazole

Other ingredients: lactose, maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose and magnesium stearate. The following colorants are also present in the tablets: 10mg tablets -red iron oxide CI77491

15mg tablets -yellow iron oxide CI77492

20mg tablets - no colourants

30mg tablets - red iron oxide CI77491

ABILIFY does not contain sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Manufacturer/Distributor

This product is distributed in Australia by:

Bristol-Myers, Squibb Australia Pty Ltd,

ACN 004 333 322

556 Princes Highway,

Noble Park 3174 VIC, Australia

AUST R 90997 10mg tablets

AUST R 90998 15mg tablets

AUST R 90999 20mg tablets

AUST R 91000 30mg tablets

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