

You or your loved one is taking a medication called haloperidol (Haldol®). Haloperidol is used at the end of life to help with nausea and agitation. It can also help manage mood and hallucinations.

Haloperidol comes in a tablet or liquid. The tablet (crushed) and liquid can be used under the tongue if you or your loved one is unable to swallow. This medication may be included in a “kit” with other medications to use as needed to help treat new or worsening symptoms. Follow the hospice doctor/nurse’s instructions carefully when using haloperidol.

### **Possible side effects of haloperidol:**

Seek emergency medical help if you or your loved one have any of the following signs of a severe allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat or difficulty breathing.

Contact the hospice doctor/nurse immediately if you or your loved one is experiencing one or more of these serious side effects. The hospice team will be on the look-out for serious side effects and can change therapy if necessary.

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| • Fever, infection                                 | • Unusual bruising or bleeding  |
| • Chest pain                                       | • Vision changes  |
| • Cough, shortness of breath, wheezing             | • Severe headache   |
| • Abnormal movements, twitching, tremors, seizures | • Sensing things that seem real but are not   |
| • Change in balance, trouble moving, rigidity      | • Mood changes, behavioral changes  |
| • Unable to pass urine                             | • Involuntary eye movement  |
| • Severe loss of strength and energy               | • Fast or abnormal heartbeat  |
| • Trouble swallowing, trouble speaking             | • Unable to control body movements; puffing cheeks; tongue, face, mouth, or jaw sticking out; mouth puckering |
| • Severe dizziness or passing out                  |   |

Potential less serious side effects of haloperidol may include:

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| • Fatigue, drowsiness | • Nausea/vomiting     |
| • Anxiety             | • Diarrhea            |
| • Constipation        | • Lack of appetite    |
| • Dry mouth           | • Agitation           |
| • Increased saliva    | • Difficulty sleeping |

Contact the hospice doctor/nurse if you or your loved one’s symptoms get worse or do not improve.

Reference: *Clinical Pharmacology last accessed 3.15.23*