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# ARIPIPRAZOLE (Abilify) Fact Sheet for Patients

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**Generic Name:** Aripiprazole (ay-ri-PIP-ra-zole)

**Brand Names:** Abilify, Abilify Asimtufii, Abilify Maintena, Abilify MyCite, Aristada, Aristada Initio

## What Does It Treat?

Aripiprazole is used to treat certain mental/mood disorders such as bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, Tourette's syndrome, and irritability associated with autistic disorder. It can also be used in combination with other medications to treat depression.

## How Does It Work?

Aripiprazole is a second-generation antipsychotic. It works by helping to restore the balance of certain natural chemicals in the brain (neurotransmitters) such as dopamine and serotonin.

## How Do I Take It?

Aripiprazole is available as a tablet, an orally disintegrating tablet, a liquid, and an injectable solution. The dose varies depending on the condition being treated and should be determined by your health care provider.

## What Is the Dose?

The dose of aripiprazole varies depending on the condition being treated. For instance, for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, the usual dose starts at 10-15 mg per day for adults and can be adjusted based on the response to treatment. Lower doses are typically used for major depression. It is important to follow your health care provider's instructions regarding the dose.

## How Long Will I Take It?

The length of time you'll need to take aripiprazole can vary. It depends on how your body responds to the medication and the specifics of your condition. Your health care provider will guide you on this, but usually it's taken for several months or longer.

## What If I Miss a Dose?

If you forget to take a dose of aripiprazole, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it's close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and just take the next one at its regular time. Don't double up on doses.

## What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Sedation, an uneasy feeling, sleep problems (insomnia), tremors.
- Serious but rare: Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (fever, muscle stiffness, confusion), tardive dyskinesia (uncontrolled movements), difficulty swallowing, lightheadedness or fainting, high blood sugar, high cholesterol/triglyceride levels.

## What Else Should I Know?

- Aripiprazole may interact with other medications. Inform your health care provider of all medications you are taking.
- You should not use aripiprazole if you are allergic to it.
- Before starting aripiprazole, tell your health care provider if you have a personal or family history of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, blood clotting issues, or seizures.
- Do not stop taking aripiprazole abruptly without consulting your health care provider. Follow their guidance for gradually reducing the dosage.

*Remember, this fact sheet provides general information about this medication. For more specific guidance and instructions, consult your health care provider.*