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# OLANZAPINE (Zyprexa) Fact Sheet for Patients

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**Generic Name:** Olanzapine (oh-LAN-za-peen)

**Brand Names:** Zyprexa, Zyprexa Relprevv, Zyprexa Zydis

## What Does It Treat?

Olanzapine is used to treat certain mental/mood conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression in combination with other medications.

## How Does It Work?

Olanzapine is a second-generation antipsychotic. It works by helping to restore the balance of certain natural substances in the brain, such as dopamine and serotonin.

## How Do I Take It?

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

## What is the Dose?

The typical dosage for olanzapine, used for schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, ranges from 10-20 mg per day. The dosing depends on both the condition being treated and the product being used and should be determined by your health care provider.

## How Long Will I Take It?

The duration of treatment with olanzapine will depend on the severity and type of your condition, as well as your individual response to the medication. Your health care provider will provide more specific guidance.

## What If I Miss a Dose?

If you miss a dose of olanzapine, take it as soon as you remember, unless it is close to the time of your next dose. In that case, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

## What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Dizziness, drowsiness, constipation, increased appetite, weight gain, dry mouth, restlessness.
- 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?

- Olanzapine may interact with other medications, so inform your health care provider of all the medications you are taking.
- You should not take olanzapine if you are allergic to it.
- Before starting olanzapine, tell your health care provider if you have a personal or family history of diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, liver disease, or obesity.
- Do not stop taking olanzapine 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.*