

PALEXIA® IR

immediate release tablets

Tapentadol (as hydrochloride) (Ta-pen-ta-dol)

Consumer Medicine Information

WARNING

Limitations of use

PALEXIA® IR should only be used when your doctor decides that other treatment options are not able to effectively manage your pain or you cannot tolerate them.

Hazardous and harmful use

PALEXIA® IR poses risks of abuse, misuse and addiction which can lead to overdose and death. Your doctor will monitor you regularly during treatment.

Life threatening respiratory depression

PALEXIA® IR can cause life-threatening or fatal breathing problems (slow, shallow, unusual or no breathing), even when used as recommended. These problems can occur at any time during use, but the risk is higher when first starting PALEXIA® IR and after a dose increase, if you are older, or have an existing problem with your lungs. Your doctor will monitor you and change the dose as appropriate.

Use of other medicines while using PALEXIA® IR

Using PALEXIA® IR with other medicines that can make you feel drowsy such as sleeping tablets (e.g. benzodiazepines), other pain relievers, antihistamines, antidepressants, antipsychotics, gabapentinoids (e.g. gabapentin and pregabalin), cannabis and alcohol may result in severe drowsiness, decreased awareness, breathing problems, coma and death. Your doctor will minimise the dose and duration of use; and monitor you for signs and symptoms of breathing difficulties and sedation. You must not drink alcohol while using PALEXIA® IR.

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about PALEXIA® IR.

It does not contain all the available information.

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 having PALEXIA® IR against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What PALEXIA® IR is used for

PALEXIA® (tapentadol) IR is used to relieve severe pain. This strong pain reliever belongs to a group of medicines known as opioid analgesics.

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

Your doctor may have prescribed PALEXIA® IR for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why PALEXIA® IR has been prescribed for you.

Before you take PALEXIA® IR

When you must not take it

You must not take PALEXIA® IR if you:

- are allergic to tapentadol or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. Signs of allergic reaction may include a skin rash, itching, shortness of breath or swelling of the face, lips or tongue
- have asthma or if your breathing is dangerously slow or shallow (respiratory depression, hypercapnia)
- have paralysis of the gut
- have acute poisoning with alcohol, sleeping pills, pain relievers or other psychotropic medicines (medicines that affect mood and emotions)
- are taking medicine for depression containing a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) medicine (such as Nardil, Parnate) or have taken a MAOI within the last 14 days. Ask your doctor

or pharmacist if any of your medicines is an MAOI.

Do not take PALEXIA® IR if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering or the tablets do not look quite right.

Do not take PALEXIA® IR if the expiry date on the pack has passed.

You should only start taking PALEXIA® IR under direct supervision of your doctor due to the following risks:

Addiction

You can become addicted to PALEXIA® IR even if you take it exactly as prescribed. PALEXIA® IR may become habit forming causing mental and physical dependence. If abused it may become less able to reduce pain.

Dependence

As with all other opioid containing products, your body may become used to you taking PALEXIA® IR. Taking it may result in physical dependence. Physical dependence means that you may experience withdrawal symptoms if you stop taking PALEXIA® IR suddenly, so it is important to take it exactly as directed by your doctor.

Tolerance

Tolerance to PALEXIA® IR may develop, which means that the effect of the medicine may decrease. If this happens, more may be needed to maintain the same effect.

Withdrawal

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you. If you stop having this medicine suddenly, your pain may worsen and you may experience some or all of the following withdrawal symptoms:

- nervousness, restlessness, agitation, trouble sleeping or anxiety
- body aches, weakness or stomach cramps
- loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- increased heart rate, breathing rate or pupil size
- watery eyes, runny nose, chills or yawning
- increased sweating.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you:

- have slow or shallow breathing
- have sleep-related breathing disorders
- suffer from increased pressure in the brain or disturbed consciousness up to coma
- have had a head injury or a brain tumour
- have had an epileptic fit or seizure or if you have an increased risk of having epileptic fits or seizures
- suffer from a liver or kidney disease
- suffer from a pancreatic or biliary tract disease including pancreatitis
- are breastfeeding
- are pregnant, or planning to become pregnant
- have an addiction or history of abuse of alcohol, opioids or other drugs
- have been told that you have an intolerance to some sugars. Lactose is an ingredient in these tablets.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. You should not take PALEXIA® IR during pregnancy unless your doctor has told you to do so. Taking PALEXIA® IR during pregnancy may lead to withdrawal symptoms in the newborn baby.

You should not take PALEXIA® IR during labour as it can cause breathing problems and signs of withdrawal in the newborn. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using PALEXIA® IR.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding. You should not take PALEXIA® IR if you are breastfeeding as it may pass into your breast milk.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines and PALEXIA® IR may interfere with each other. These medicines include:

- medicines for depression, sleeplessness or mental conditions such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's), serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRI's), tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOIs) and triptans
- other pain relievers such as morphine or codeine

- some cough medicines
- general anaesthetics such as propofol or midazolam (examples are Propofol™ or Midazolam™)
- medicines that slow the brain activity (central nervous system (CNS) depressants or phenothiazines). These medicines can be used to treat anxiety, muscle tension, pain, insomnia, acute stress reactions, panic attacks or seizure disorders such as sleeping pills, tranquilizers, hypnotics or sedatives (examples are Stelazine™, Largactil™, Valium™, Temaze™, or Xanax™).

Taking these medicines with PALEXIA® IR may increase the risk of possible side effects (see **Side Effects**). Your breathing may become seriously slow or shallow (respiratory depression) and your blood pressure may decrease. Your consciousness may be decreased, you may feel drowsier or feel that you might faint. If this happens tell your doctor.

Do not take PALEXIA® IR with alcohol. Some side effects such as drowsiness may be increased.

Other medications can also interfere with PALEXIA® IR and make you feel drowsy (see Warning information at the start of this document). Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

How to take PALEXIA® IR

You should only start taking PALEXIA® IR under the direct supervision of your doctor.

Your doctor will tell you how much you should take, when and how often. It is important that you take this medicine as directed by your doctor.

If you are unsure ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How much to take

The usual dose is 1 tablet every 4 to 6 hours. Your doctor may prescribe a different, more appropriate dose or interval of dosing, if this is necessary for you.

If you feel that the effect of these tablets is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

PALEXIA® IR is not suitable for children and adolescents below the age of 18 years. In elderly patients (above 65 years) usually no dose adjustment is necessary. However, the excretion of tapentadol may be delayed in some patients of this age group. If this applies to you, your doctor may recommend a different dosage regimen.

Patients with severe liver problems should not take these tablets. If you have moderate problems, your doctor will recommend a different dosage regimen.

Patients with severe kidney problems should not take these tablets.

Carefully follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist. These directions may differ from the information in this leaflet.

When and how should you take the tablets

PALEXIA® IR tablets should be swallowed whole with water. They may be taken, before, with, or after food.

Do not chew, divide or break the tablets. Chewing, dividing or breaking the tablets will release the medicine quickly and side effects may then occur.

How long to take it

This differs between individuals depending on how severe your pain is, how you respond to PALEXIA® IR and the cause of your pain. Ask your doctor for advice on how long you need to take PALEXIA® IR.

Carefully follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist. These directions may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you forget to take it

If you forget to take a dose, you can take it as soon as you remember. The next dose should be taken after four or six hours, or as prescribed by your doctor.

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

If you take too much (overdose)

If you or someone else receive too much (overdose), and experience one or more of the symptoms below, call triple zero (000) for an ambulance. Keep the person awake by talking to them or gently shaking them every now and then. You should follow the above steps even if someone other than you have accidentally used PALEXIA® IR that was prescribed for you. If someone takes an overdose, they may experience one or more of the following symptoms:

- Slow, unusual or difficult breathing
- Drowsiness, dizziness or unconsciousness
- Slow or weak heartbeat
- Nausea or vomiting
- Convulsions or fits

If you think you or someone else may have taken too much PALEXIA® IR, you should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 13 11 26), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

When seeking medical attention, take this leaflet and remaining medicine with you to show the doctor. Also tell them about any other medicines or alcohol which have been taken.

While you are taking PALEXIA® IR

Things you must do

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

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

Tell your doctor if you believe that PALEXIA® IR is not helping your condition.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise your doctor may think it is not working effectively and change your treatment unnecessarily.

If you become pregnant while you are taking PALEXIA® IR, tell your doctor immediately.

If you plan to have surgery, even at the dentist's, tell your doctor, anaesthetist or dentist that you are taking this medicine. It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

Things you must not do

If you wish to stop treatment, please tell your doctor first before stopping treatment. Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to. If your doctor wants you to stop taking your tablets, he/she will tell you how to do this. This may include a gradual reduction in the dose.

Some people may feel unwell if they suddenly stop taking PALEXIA® IR. If you suddenly stop taking PALEXIA® IR you may experience withdrawal symptoms (see **Withdrawal** section above).

Do not give PALEXIA® IR to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not take PALEXIA® IR for any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Things to be careful of

Do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how PALEXIA® IR affects you.

PALEXIA® IR can make you sleepy, dizzy, or lightheaded.

Do not drink alcohol while you are taking PALEXIA® IR tablets.

Drinking alcohol while taking PALEXIA® IR may make you feel more sleepy and increase the risk of serious side effects, such as shallow breathing, with the risk of stopping breathing and loss of consciousness.

Side effects

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

Like all medicines, PALEXIA® IR can cause some unwanted side effects in some people. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. Side effects not listed in this leaflet may occur in some patients. You may need to get medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

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

Very common:

- nausea
- vomiting
- dizziness
- drowsiness
- headache.

Common:

- decreased appetite
- anxiety
- confusion
- hallucination
- difficulty sleeping
- abnormal dreams
- trembling
- flushing or reddening of the face and neck
- constipation
- diarrhoea
- indigestion

- dry mouth
- itching
- increased sweating
- rash
- muscle cramps
- feeling of weakness
- fatigue
- feeling of body temperature change.

Uncommon:

- depressed mood
- disorientation
- excitability (agitation)
- nervousness
- restlessness
- euphoric mood
- disturbance in attention
- memory impairment
- near fainting
- sedation
- difficulty in controlling movements
- difficulty in speaking
- numbness
- abnormal sensations of the skin (e.g. tingling, prickling)
- muscle twitches
- abnormal vision
- faster or irregular heart beat
- decreased blood pressure
- dangerously slow or shallow breathing
- shortness of breath
- abdominal discomfort
- hives
- sensation of heaviness
- delay in passing urine
- frequent urination
- drug withdrawal syndrome (see “Things you must not do”)
- accumulation or retention of water in the tissues (oedema)
- feeling abnormal
- feeling drunk
- irritability
- feeling of relaxation.

Rare:

- allergic reaction
- thinking abnormal thoughts
- epileptic fit
- depressed level of consciousness
- abnormal coordination
- slower heart beat
- impaired gastric emptying.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital immediately:

- skin rash (red spots or patches), itching, hives
- swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- chest tightness, wheezing or pain in the chest
- heart palpitations
- faintness or collapse
- hallucinations
- seizures, fits or convulsions.

These are very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious

allergic reaction to PALEXIA® IR. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

If you notice any unwanted effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor, or pharmacist.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using PALEXIA® IR

Storage

Keep PALEXIA® IR tablets in the blister pack until it is time to take them.

Keep your tablets in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store PALEXIA® IR in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave them in a car or on a window sill

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep PALEXIA® IR tablets where children cannot reach them.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

Product Description

There are 3 distinct strengths of PALEXIA® IR tablets:

PALEXIA® IR 50 mg tablets

White round shaped film-coated tablets of 7 mm diameter, marked with Grünenthal logo on one side and “H6” on the other side.

PALEXIA® IR 75 mg tablets

Pale yellow round shaped film-coated tablets of 8 mm diameter, marked with Grünenthal logo on one side and “H7” on the other side.

PALEXIA® IR 100 mg tablets

Pale pink round shaped film-coated tablets of 9 mm diameter, marked with Grünenthal logo on one side and “H8” on the other side.

The registered pack sizes for PALEXIA® IR tablets are: 5, 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 40, 50, 56, 60, 90 and 100 tablets.

All strengths and pack sizes may not be available.

PALEXIA® IR tablets are sealed in a blister foil pack.

Ingredients

Active ingredients

PALEXIA® IR 50 mg tablets - each tablet contains 50 mg tapentadol (as hydrochloride).

PALEXIA® IR 75 mg tablets - each tablet contains 75 mg tapentadol (as hydrochloride).

PALEXIA® IR 100 mg tablets - each tablet contains 100 mg tapentadol (as hydrochloride).

Inactive ingredients

PALEXIA® IR tablets also contain the following inactive ingredients:

- microcrystalline cellulose
- lactose monohydrate

- croscarmellose sodium
- povidone (K30)
- magnesium stearate
- polyvinyl alcohol
- titanium dioxide (E171)
- macrogol 3350
- purified talc
- iron oxide yellow (E172) (75 and 100 mg tablets only)
- iron oxide red (E172) (75 and 100 mg tablets only)
- iron oxide black (E172) (100 mg tablets only).

PALEXIA® IR contains lactose.

PALEXIA® IR does not contain:

- gluten
- preservative.

Further information

You can obtain more information from your doctor or pharmacist.

Australian sponsor:

Seqirus Pty Ltd
 ABN 26 160 735 035
 63 Poplar Road
 Parkville, VIC 3052
 Australia

PALEXIA® IR is distributed in Australia by:

Seqirus(Australia) Pty Ltd
 ABN 66 120 398 067
 63 Poplar Road
 Parkville, VIC 3052
 Australia

PALEXIA® IR is manufactured by:

Grünenthal GmbH, Germany

Australian Registration Numbers:

PALEXIA® IR 50 mg tablets
 AUST R 165310
 PALEXIA® IR 75 mg tablets
 AUST R 165317
 PALEXIA® IR 100 mg tablets
 AUST R 165318

This leaflet was prepared in September 2020.

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