GETTING READY TO DISCUSS LAIs

If you are reading this, you probably watched our video about long acting injectable antipsychotics (abbreviated LAIs). We hope that you found the video informative. Feel free to share it with other people you think might be interested.

If you want to learn more about LAIs, your treatment team is your best source of information.

We all have had the experience of leaving a visit with our doctor or nurse and later remembering something we meant to ask them. The information below may help you get ready for your talk with your treatment team about whether a LAI is right for you.

MAKE A LIST OF POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF A LAI FOR YOU.

The video provided general advantages and disadvantages of LAIs. Everyone has different wants and needs, so the next step is to determine which of the advantages and disadvantages discussed on the video apply to you. You can make a list before your meeting with your treatment team and add to the list as you learn new information during your talks with your treatment team.

Notes:

Advantages of LAI treatment for me

Disadvantages of LAI treatment for me
If you want to try treatment with a LAI, how do you choose which one to try?

There are a number of available LAIs so you and your treatment team can discuss which one best fits your preferences.

The available options are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic name</th>
<th>Common Trade name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fluphenazine decanoate</td>
<td>Prolixin decanoate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haloperidol decanoate</td>
<td>Haldol decanoate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>risperidone microspheres</td>
<td>Risperdal Consta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>olanzapine pamoate</td>
<td>Relprevv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paliperidone palmitate</td>
<td>There are two versions, Invega Sustenna and Invega Trinza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aripiprazole monohydrate</td>
<td>Abilify Maintena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aripiprazole lauroxil</td>
<td>Aristada</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the active antipsychotic in aripiprazole monohydrate and aripiprazole lauroxil are the same

Factors to consider when making a choice.

❖ The effects of the specific type of medication in the LAI
❖ Practical considerations, such as how often each shot lasts and who gives the shot
❖ Costs

Let’s discuss these briefly.
The effects of the antipsychotic in the LAI

Like medicines you take by mouth, the effects of the injection are mostly determined by the medicine that is in the LAI. For example, olanzapine usually causes more weight gain than aripiprazole. If you are concerned about weight gain, you might prefer a LAI version of aripiprazole over a LAI version of olanzapine.

The medication in all LAI’s also comes in a tablet or pill form. People who are taking the tablet or pill form and are satisfied with how the medication is working often just switch from the oral to LAI form of the same medicine.

People who are not taking a medication that comes in a LAI form or who are unhappy with the oral antipsychotic they are taking may need to switch medications if they would like to try a LAI.

If you would need to switch antipsychotics, some questions you may want to consider with your treatment team are:

Do the improvements in symptoms and the side effects of the new medication differ from the one I am taking? If they do, what are the usual differences?

Notes:  

Are there risks of switching medications?

Notes:  

If I switch medications, how long do I take the old medication while I start the new one?

Notes:  

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Practical Considerations

A commonly asked question is how frequently do people get a LAI shot. That depends upon the medication chosen and varies from getting a shot every 2 weeks to getting a shot every 3 months. The usual times between shots is listed in the table below. The medications are listed from the shortest time between shots to the longest time between shots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic name</th>
<th>Common Trade name</th>
<th>Time between each shot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>risperidone microspheres</td>
<td>Risperdal Consta</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fluphenazine decanoate</td>
<td>Prolixin</td>
<td>2-3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>olanzapine pamoate</td>
<td>Relprev</td>
<td>2 or 4 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haloperidol decanoate</td>
<td>Haldol</td>
<td>1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aripiprazole monohydrate</td>
<td>Abilify Maintena</td>
<td>1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aripiprazole lauroxil</td>
<td>Aristada</td>
<td>1 month or 6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>paliperidone palmitate</td>
<td>Invega Sustenna</td>
<td>1 month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Invega Trinza</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tip about LAI doses

People often get confused by the big differences in the mg doses for an oral antipsychotic and the same antipsychotic in a LAI form. That difference is on purpose, because the mg dose needed to get the same blood level of medication from a pill and from a LAI are very different.

Tip about starting a LAI

Some LAIs don’t start immediately after the first LAI shot is given. For these LAIs, you will need to take oral antipsychotic medications for the first few weeks after the first LAI injection. Your treatment team can give you information about the particular LAIs you are considering.

Suggested other questions to ask

Some questions you may want to ask your treatment team to determine what you would need to do to get a LAI shot, include:

Where are the shots given?

Notes: ____________________________________________________________

Who gives them?

Notes: ____________________________________________________________

Are there any restrictions on the days or times when shots are given?

Notes: ____________________________________________________________
Costs

LAIs vary a lot in their costs. You may find it helpful to ask your treatment team the following:

What is my insurance coverage for LAIs?

Notes: 

Will I have to pay extra money beyond my insurance coverage for a LAI?

Notes: 

You may have additional questions

We have only presented some of the questions about LAIs you might want to discuss with your treatment team. There are many other questions you may have. Feel free to use the space below to help prepare for your talk with your treatment team.

My question: 

Notes: 

My question: 

Notes: 

My question: 

Notes: