

The Medical Letter[®]

on Drugs and Therapeutics

Volume 65

December 25, 2023

ISSUE No.
1692

IN THIS ISSUE

In Brief: Three New Injectable Antipsychotic Drugs.....p 207

Important Copyright Message

FORWARDING OR COPYING IS A VIOLATION OF U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT LAWS

The Medical Letter, Inc. publications are protected by U.S. and international copyright laws. Forwarding, copying, or any distribution of this material without permission to a nonsubscriber is prohibited.

Sharing a password with a nonsubscriber or otherwise making the contents of this site available to third parties is prohibited.

By accessing and reading the attached content I agree to comply with U.S. and international copyright laws and these terms and conditions of The Medical Letter, Inc.

For further information click: [Subscriptions](#), [Site Licenses](#), [Reprints](#)
or call customer service at: 800-211-2769

The Medical Letter®

on Drugs and Therapeutics

Volume 65 (Issue 1692)

December 25, 2023

Take CME Exams

IN BRIEF

Three New Injectable Antipsychotic Drugs

Three extended-release injectable formulations of second-generation antipsychotic drugs – two of risperidone (*Rykindo*, *Uzedy*) and one of aripiprazole (*Abilify Asimtufii*) – have been approved by the FDA for treatment of schizophrenia in adults. *Rykindo* and *Abilify Asimtufii* are also approved for maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder in adults. Other extended-release injectable formulations of risperidone and aripiprazole have been available in the US for years (see Table 1).¹

EXTENDED-RELEASE INJECTABLE ANTIPSYCHOTICS – Extended-release injectable second-generation anti-psychotic drugs are generally used in patients with a history of relapse due to poor adherence to oral maintenance

Pronunciation Key

Abilify Asimtufii: a bil' i fy ah sim tuh fye
Rykindo: rye kin' doe
Uzedy: ue ze dee

therapy. They are believed to improve adherence, hospitalization and relapse rates, and long-term outcomes in patients with schizophrenia, even though a benefit has not been consistently demonstrated in controlled trials comparing them with oral formulations.²⁻⁴

CLINICAL STUDIES – No new clinical efficacy trials were required for FDA approval of *Rykindo* or *Abilify Asimtufii*; approval was based on the results of earlier trials with other extended-release formulations of risperidone or aripiprazole. Approval of *Uzedy* was based on the results of earlier trials with oral risperidone and an unpublished trial

Table 1. Some Extended-Release Injectable Second-Generation Antipsychotics

Drug	Some Formulations	Usual Adult Dosage ^{1,2}	Cost ³
Aripiprazole – <i>Abilify Maintena</i> (Otsuka/Lundbeck)	300, 400 mg prefilled syringes, vials	400 mg IM once/month ⁴	\$2719.20
<i>Abilify Asimtufii</i>	720, 960 mg prefilled syringes	960 mg IM q2 months ^{4,5}	5438.50
Aripiprazole lauroxil – <i>Aristada</i> (Alkermes)	441, 662, 882, 1064 mg prefilled syringes	441, 662, or 882 mg IM once/month or 882 mg IM q6 weeks or 1064 mg q2 months ⁶	1499.70
Olanzapine pamoate – <i>Zyprexa Relprevv</i> (Lilly) ⁷	210, 300, 405 mg vials	150 or 300 mg IM q2 weeks or 300 or 405 mg IM once/month	842.40
Paliperidone palmitate – <i>Invega Sustenna</i> (Janssen)	39, 78, 117, 156, 234 mg prefilled syringes	117, 156, or 234 mg IM once/month	1674.00
<i>Invega Trinza</i>	273, 410, 546, 819 mg prefilled syringes	410, 546, or 819 mg IM q3 months	5022.10
<i>Invega Hafyera</i>	1092, 1560 mg prefilled syringes	1092 or 1560 mg IM q6 months	13,277.90
Risperidone – <i>Risperdal Consta</i> (Janssen)	12.5, 25, 37.5, 50 mg vials	25, 37.5, or 50 mg IM q2 weeks ⁸	1229.10
<i>Rykindo</i> (Luye)	25, 37.5, 50 mg kits	25 mg IM q2 weeks ⁹ (max 50 mg)	1172.80
<i>Perseris</i> (Indivior)	90, 120 mg kits	90 or 120 mg SC once/month	2070.60
<i>Uzedy</i> (Teva)	50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 200, 250 mg prefilled syringes	50, 75, 100, or 125 mg SC once/month or 100, 150, 200, or 250 mg SC q2 months	1232.00

1. Dosage adjustments may be needed for renal or hepatic impairment or for drug interactions.
2. Initial dosage of long-acting formulations for schizophrenia is based on patient's stable oral maintenance dosage. Dosage of *Invega Trinza* is based on the previous dose of *Invega Sustenna*; dosage of *Invega Hafyera* is based on the previous dose of *Invega Sustenna* or *Invega Trinza*.
3. Approximate WAC for 4 weeks' or 1 month's treatment with the lowest usual adult dosage (2 months' treatment with *Abilify Asimtufii*, 3 months' treatment with *Invega Trinza*, 6 months' treatment with *Invega Hafyera*). WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. December 5, 2023. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2023. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.
4. The first dose should be given with oral aripiprazole 10–20 mg for 14 consecutive days.
5. In patients taking *Abilify Maintena*, *Abilify Asimtufii* can be given in place of the second or later doses of *Abilify Maintena*.
6. Either a single 675-mg IM dose of *Aristada Initio* and one 30-mg dose of oral aripiprazole or 21 days of oral aripiprazole should be given with the first dose of *Aristada*.
7. Use has been limited by the risk of post-injection delirium sedation syndrome.
8. The first dose should be given with 21 days of oral risperidone
9. The first dose should be given with 7 days of oral risperidone.

(summarized in the package insert) in patients with schizophrenia. In the unpublished trial, patients received oral risperidone for 12 weeks, followed by either *Uzedly* or placebo given SC once monthly or once every 2 months. Time to relapse was statistically significantly longer with *Uzedly* than with placebo.

ADVERSE EFFECTS – The adverse effects of the new formulations of risperidone and aripiprazole appear to be similar to those observed with other injectable extended-release formulations of these drugs. Risperidone and aripiprazole can cause akathisia, angioedema, dyslipidemia, extrapyramidal symptoms, and hyperglycemia; risperidone can also cause hyperprolactinemia.

The labels of all second-generation antipsychotic drugs contain a boxed warning about an increased risk of death in older patients with dementia-related psychosis.

CONCLUSION – Extended-release injectable formulations of the second-generation antipsychotic drugs risperidone and aripiprazole have been available for years. The new extended-release formulation of aripiprazole (*Abilify Asimtufii*) and one new formulation of risperidone (*Rykindo*) do not appear to offer any advantage in efficacy and safety over other extended-release injectable formulations of these drugs. *Uzedly*, the other new extended-release formulation of risperidone, extends the interval between injections to once every 2 months, which is longer than with other extended-release injectable formulations of risperidone. ■

1. Aripiprazole with digital ingestion tracking (Ability MyCite). *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2019; 61:15.
2. Drugs for psychotic disorders. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2016; 58:160.
3. GA Keepers et al. The American Psychiatric Association practice guideline for the treatment of patients with schizophrenia. *Am J Psychiatry* 2020; 177:868.
4. Drugs for bipolar disorder. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2016; 58:103.

PRESIDENT: Mark Abramowicz, M.D.; **VICE PRESIDENT, EDITOR IN CHIEF:** Jean-Marie Pflomm, Pharm.D.; **ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Susan M. Daron, Pharm.D., Amy Faucard, MLS, Michael P. Viscusi, Pharm.D. **CONSULTING EDITORS:** Joanna Esterow, PA-C, Mordechai Sacks, DMSc, PA-C, Brinda M. Shah, Pharm.D., F. Peter Swanson, M.D.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Carl W. Bazil, M.D., Ph.D., Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Ericka L. Crouse, Pharm.D., B.C.P.P., C.G.P., F.A.S.H.P., F.A.S.C.P., Virginia Commonwealth University; Vanessa K. Dalton, M.D., M.P.H., University of Michigan Medical School; Eric J. Epstein, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine; David N. Juurlink, BPhM, M.D., Ph.D., Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre; Richard B. Kim, M.D., University of Western Ontario; Sandip K. Mukherjee, M.D., F.A.C.C., Yale School of Medicine; Dan M. Roden, M.D., Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; Esperance A.K. Schaefer, M.D., M.P.H., Harvard Medical School; Neal H. Steigbigel, M.D., New York University School of Medicine; Arthur M. F. Yee, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.C.R., Weill Medical College of Cornell University

MANAGING EDITOR AND DIRECTOR OF CONTENT OPERATIONS: Susie Wong; **EDITORIAL ASSISTANT:** Karrie Ferrara

FULFILLMENT AND SYSTEMS MANAGER: Cristine Romatowski; **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SALES:** Elaine Reaney-Tomaselli

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS: Joanne F. Valentino; **INTERIM PUBLISHER:** Jean-Marie Pflomm, Pharm.D.

Founded in 1959 by Arthur Kallet and Harold Aaron, M.D.

Copyright and Disclaimer: The Medical Letter, Inc. is an independent nonprofit organization that provides healthcare professionals with unbiased drug prescribing recommendations. The editorial process used for its publications relies on a review of published and unpublished literature, with an emphasis on controlled clinical trials, and on the opinions of its consultants. The Medical Letter, Inc. does not sell advertising or receive any commercial support. No part of the material may be reproduced or transmitted by any process in whole or in part without prior permission in writing. The Medical Letter, Inc. does not warrant that all the material in this publication is accurate and complete in every respect. The Medical Letter, Inc. and its editors shall not be held responsible for any damage resulting from any error, inaccuracy, or omission.

Subscription Services

Address:

The Medical Letter, Inc.
145 Huguenot St. Ste. 312
New Rochelle, NY 10801-7537
www.medicalletter.org

Customer Service:

Call: 800-211-2769 or 914-235-0500
Fax: 914-632-1733
E-mail: custserv@medicalletter.org

Permissions:

To reproduce any portion of this issue,
please e-mail your request to:
permissions@medicalletter.org

Subscriptions (US):

1 year - \$159; 2 years - \$298;
3 years - \$398. \$65 per year
for students, interns, residents,
and fellows in the US and Canada.
Reprints - \$45 per issue or article

Site License Inquiries:

E-mail: SubQuote@medicalletter.org
Call: 800-211-2769
Special rates available for bulk
subscriptions.