Haloperidol for nausea and sickness

Why do I need Haloperidol?
Haloperidol is used to treat nausea and sickness. It is often used when other anti-sickness medicines have failed to work. Haloperidol is particularly useful for treating nausea and sickness which has been caused by other drugs you may be taking, or by waste products and certain substances found normally in your body which have built up to higher levels than normal.

How does Haloperidol work?
Haloperidol works on an area of the brain called the ‘chemoreceptor trigger zone’. It blocks chemicals in the body, which can act on this area to produce feelings of nausea and sickness.

Does Haloperidol have any other uses?
Yes, Haloperidol can also be used to treat some mental and emotional disorders, restlessness and agitation. However, it is also regularly used for the treatment of nausea and sickness.

How long will Haloperidol take to work?
You would notice that your nausea and sickness begin to improve slightly after your first dose, with the best effect within 2 to 3 days. Your treatment will be reviewed when you next see your Doctor to see if you are having an benefit from Haloperidol.

How should I take Haloperidol?
You should take Haloperidol in addition to your current treatment, unless told otherwise.

Haloperidol is usually taken as a single dose before you go to bed at night.

Do I need any tests whilst I’m taking Haloperidol?
No, you will not need any special checks whilst you are taking Haloperidol.

Are there any side-effects?
All drugs have side effects, but they do not happen in all the people who take them.

The most common side-effects of Haloperidol are drowsiness, and more rarely, restlessness, a dry mouth, constipation and blurred vision.

Very rarely Haloperidol can cause uncontrollable movements of the mouth, tongue, cheeks, jaw, arms or legs. If you have any of these rare side effects, you should stop taking Haloperidol and see your Doctor as soon as possible.
Can I drink alcohol whilst taking Haloperidol?
If the Haloperidol make you feel tired, drowsy or gives you any other side-effects, then drinking alcohol may increase these side-effects.

Because of this, we advise that you should avoid drinking alcohol if these side-effects are troublesome.

Is it safe for me to drive whilst I'm taking Haloperidol?
Haloperidol can cause drowsiness. You should not drive for the first 7-days of treatment until you know if you are affected by this or not. If you do feel drowsy we advise you should not drive until the effects have worn off.

Is it safe for me to take other medicines whilst I'm receiving treatment with Haloperidol?
Before you take or buy any new medicines—including herbal remedies—tell your Doctor or Pharmacist that you are taking Haloperidol and ask their advice.

What should I do if I forget to take a dose?
You should take a missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next usual dose, wait until then to take your medicine and skip the missed one.

Additional Information
The information in this leaflet is not intended to replace your Doctor’s advice. If you require more information or have any questions, please speak to your Doctor, or contact one of the following:

- Hospital Palliative Care Team
  Tel: (01246) 277271 ext 2470 or 3474
- Palliative Care Pharmacist
  Tel: (01246) 277271 Bleep 565
- Pharmacy Medicines Helpline
  Tel: (01246) 512655
  The helpline is available from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm
- Ashgate Hospice
  Tel: (01246) 568801
- Your Macmillan Nurse

You can get copies of this and other leaflets from our website:
www.chesterfieldroyal.nhs.uk

Do you have special communication needs?
Speak to a member of staff if you need interpreting services (including sign language) at your appointments, or if you would prefer information in another format.