ARIPIPRAZOLE (ABILIFY®)

Patient Education Handout

IMPORTANT WARNINGS
Children and teens who take this drug may be at greater risk of having thoughts or actions of suicide. The risk may be greater in people who have had these thoughts or actions in the past. Call the doctor right away if signs like low mood (depression), nervousness, restlessness, grumpiness, panic attacks, if changes in mood or actions are new or worse, or if any thoughts or actions of suicide occur.

WHAT IS THIS DRUG USED FOR?
- To treat schizophrenia
- To treat low mood (depression)
- To treat bipolar problems
- To treat certain behavior problems in patients with autism
- To treat Tourette’s syndrome
- May be given to your child for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW OR DO WHILE MY CHILD TAKES THIS DRUG?
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, have your child get up slowly over a few minutes when sitting or lying down. Have your child be extra careful climbing stairs.
- Have your child’s blood sugar checked as you have been told by your child’s doctor. This drug can raise blood sugar.
- Have your child’s blood work checked often. Talk with your child’s doctor.
- If your child drinks grapefruit juice or eats grapefruit often, talk with your child’s doctor.
- Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness until you see how this drug affects your child. These are things like riding a bike, playing sports, or using items such as scissors, lawnmowers, electric scooters, or motorized vehicles.
- Alcohol may interact with this drug. Be sure your child does not drink alcohol.
- Talk with your doctor before you use other drugs and natural products that slow your actions.
- Have your child be careful in hot weather or while being active. Have your child drink lots of fluids to stop fluid loss.
- Low white blood cells have happened with drugs like this one. This may lead to a higher chance of getting an infection. Tell your doctor if you have ever had a low white blood cell count. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of infection like fever, chills, or sore throat.

GENERAL DRUG FACTS
- Tell all doctors, dentists, and surgeons that your child is using this drug
- Tell your doctor if your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your child’s drugs and before giving your child any new drug (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins)
- Storage:
  - Store at room temperature
  - Protect from light
  - Store in a dry place

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:
WHAT ARE SIDE EFFECTS THAT I NEED TO CALL MY CHILD’S DOCTOR ABOUT RIGHT AWAY?

**RARE BUT SERIOUS**
- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Signs of high blood sugar like confusion, feeling sleepy, more thirst, more hunger, passing urine more often, flushing, fast breathing, or breath that smells like fruit
- Trouble controlling body movements, twitching, change in balance, trouble swallowing or speaking
- If your child is planning to harm him/herself
- Very bad dizziness or passing out
- Feeling very tired or weak
- Seizures
- Blurred eyesight
- A very bad and sometimes deadly health problem called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) may happen. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has any fever, muscle cramps or stiffness, dizziness, very bad headache, confusion, change in thinking, fast heartbeat, heartbeat that does not feel normal, or is sweating a lot.
- Some people who take this drug may get a very bad muscle problem called tardive dyskinesia. Muscle problems may also occur after short-term use with low doses. Call your child’s doctor right away if your child has trouble controlling body movements or if your child has muscle problems with his/her tongue, face, mouth, or jaw like tongue sticking out, puffing cheeks, mouth puckering, or chewing.

WHAT ARE SOME SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS DRUG?

All drugs may cause side effects. Call your child’s doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away.

- Dizziness
- Feeling sleepy
- Feeling tired or weak
- Anxiety
- Headache
- Upset stomach or throwing up
- Weight gain
- Restlessness
- Hard stools (constipation)
- Not able to sleep
- Feeling more or less hungry
- Nose and throat irritation
- Dry mouth
- Shakiness
- Drooling
- Stuffy nose

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child’s doctor.

HOW IS THIS DRUG BEST GIVEN?

- Give this drug as you have been told, even if your child feels well.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss giving your child doses.
- Give this drug with or without food.
- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child’s next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child’s normal time.