Sulpiride is a drug that is classified in the group of benzamide according to its chemical structure and in the group of antidepressants according to its pharmacological activity. It is used to treat schizophrenia and depression. The studies proved that this medicine is effective to relieve symptoms gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).¹

### Contraindications and precautions

Sulpiride is contraindicated in the following conditions:

- In patients with adrenal tumors *(i.e. pheochromocytoma)*. There have been reports of sudden death due to the application of this drug in patients who have pheochromocytoma.² Sulpiride increases the level of norepinephrine in the blood³, which is considered to be the main cause of worsening symptoms in patients with pheochromocytoma.
- In patients who have breast cancer or increased secretion of prolactin. Sulpiride increases the secretion of prolactin⁴ and may exacerbate the condition in such patients.
- In patients suffering from acute porphyria *(hereditary liver disorder)*.

Sulpiride should be very cautiously applied in the following conditions:

- In patients older than 70 years
- In patients with epilepsy
- In patients who have any heart disease
- In patients who have any kidney disease
Sulpiride, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Sulpiride should not be used during pregnancy, especially during the last trimester. Application during the last trimester can cause following symptoms in newborns:

- Muscle weakness and muscle cramps
- Difficulty breathing
- Feeding problems
- Drowsiness
- Anxiety

It is excreted in breast milk and breastfeeding should be avoided while taking Sulpiride.

Dosage

Sulpiride capsules should be taken before meals with 1 cup of water.

Recommended dosage for Sulpiride capsule is given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anxiety-depressive disorders</td>
<td>The recommended dose range is 100-400 mg twice a day (before breakfast and before dinner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia</td>
<td>The recommended dose range is 400-800 mg twice a day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is necessary to adjust the dose in patients who have kidney damage, according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree of renal impairment (expressed by creatinine clearance)</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine clearance 30-60 ml / min</td>
<td>70% of the usual dosage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine clearance 10-30 ml/min</td>
<td>50% of the usual dosage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatinine clearance less than 10 ml/min</td>
<td>35% of the usual dosage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sulpiride should not be used in patients younger than 16 years.

Overdose

Symptoms of an overdose include:

- Uncontrolled movements of the limbs
- Disturbance of consciousness, including the complete loss of consciousness
- Anxiety
- Low blood pressure

If you take more Sulpiride than your doctor recommended, you should immediately contact your
Interactions

Sulpiride should not be used simultaneously with the following medicines:

- Other antidepressants
- Drugs used to treat migraines
- Diuretics, also known as water pills (drugs for lowering high blood pressure)
- Beta blockers - drugs used to treat heart diseases (e.g. propranolol, bisoprolol, metoprolol, atenolol, and others).
- Laxatives
- Antiepileptic drugs
- Antihistamines
- Corticosteroids
- Antibiotics
- Antiarrhythmic drugs

Side effects

Sulpiride may cause the following side effects:

- Increased secretion of prolactin which can cause breast enlargement in both, men and women, the appearance of milk in the breasts in men and women who do not breastfeed, menstrual disorders and impotence
- Impaired concentration
- Drowsiness
- Anxiety
- Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (fever, muscle cramps, tachycardia, shortness of breath, confusion, and other symptoms). If you notice high temperature while taking this medicine, contact your doctor immediately.
- Low blood pressure
- Constipation
- Dry mouth
- Formation of blood clots in the vein

References

1. NCBI link 1
2. NCBI link 2
3. NCBI link 3
4. NCBI link 4