



Converting Between Haloperidol and Fluphenazine

Comparative Properties of Haloperidol and Fluphenazine

	Haloperidol ¹	Fluphenazine ²
PO Dose Equivalents ³	1 mg	1.25 mg
Conversion from PO to LAI	10-15x oral daily dose given monthly *	1.25x oral daily dose given every 2 weeks +
Loading Dose Strategy	20x oral daily dose given as the first injection *	1.25x oral daily dose given weekly for the first month ⁵ (Limited evidence on this strategy)
Oral Overlap	Continue full PO dose for 2-3 months, then taper off ++	Reduce PO dose by 50% for 2 weeks, then discontinue ++
T_{1/2} and T_{Max} of LAI (days)	21 and 3-9	14 and 1-3
FDA/PEFC Max Recommended Dose of LAI	450 mg/month	100 mg/2 weeks

PO = Oral, LAI = Long-acting injectable, FDA = Food & Drug Administration, PEFC = Psychiatric Executive Formulary Committee

* For patients who have never received haloperidol decanoate in the past: If LAI dose conversion is >100mg, give 100mg first, then the remainder of the dose 3-7 days later.

+ Recommended conversion per package insert. Literature states that there is no single, well-tested conversion formula for transitioning from PO to LAI fluphenazine.⁴

++ Oral overlap is only required if patient does not receive loading dose.

Converting Between Long-Acting Injectable Formulations ^{1, 2, 6}

Medication	Maintenance Dose Range/Frequency **			
Haloperidol Decanoate	50-100 mg every 4 weeks	150-200 mg every 4 weeks	250-300 mg every 4 weeks	350-400 mg every 4 weeks
Fluphenazine Decanoate	12.5-25 mg every 2 weeks	25-50 mg every 2 weeks	37.5-62.5 mg every 2 weeks	50-100 mg every 2 weeks

The above conversion ranges are recommended for patients who are stable on maintenance dosing of their current LAI. The dose of the new LAI should be given at the time of the next scheduled injection.

** There are several strategies for converting from PO and LAI, as well as variable data on the equivalents of these decanoate formulations discussed throughout the literature. Dosing ranges have been utilized to account for these variations and to encourage clinical judgement when switching between these two LAIs (i.e., haloperidol decanoate 200mg every 4 weeks may be converted to 25-50mg of fluphenazine decanoate every 2 weeks based on clinical judgement).

References

1. Haloperidol. Hudson, OH: Lexicomp, 2023. Available at <http://online.lexi.com/>. Accessed April 3, 2023.
2. Fluphenazine. Hudson, OH: Lexicomp, 2023. Available at <http://online.lexi.com/>. Accessed April 3, 2023.
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4. Meyer JM. Converting oral to long acting injectable antipsychotics: A guide for the perplexed. *CNS Spectr* 2017; 22:14-28.
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