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## On Drugs and Therapeutics

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### IN BRIEF

#### **Injectable Paliperidone Palmitate for Schizophrenia**

Paliperidone palmitate (*Invega Sustenna* – Ortho-McNeil Janssen) has been approved by the FDA as a once-monthly injection for acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults. An extended-release oral formulation (*Invega*) has been available since 2006.<sup>1</sup> Long-acting injections of antipsychotic drugs typically are used to treat patients who cannot adhere to an oral regimen.<sup>2,3</sup> Paliperidone is the primary active metabolite of risperidone (*Risperdal*), which is also available as a long-acting (every 2 weeks) injection. It is unclear whether either risperidone or paliperidone is a better choice for long-term treatment of schizophrenia than a first-generation drug such as haloperidol, which can also be injected once a month and costs much less.<sup>4</sup>

1. Paliperidone (*Invega*) for schizophrenia. *Med Lett Drugs Ther* 2007; 49:21.
2. JC West et al. Use of depot antipsychotic medications for medication non-adherence in schizophrenia. *Schizophr Bull* 2008; 34:995.
3. D Hough et al. Safety and tolerability of deltoid and gluteal injections of paliperidone palmitate in schizophrenia. *Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry* 2009; 33:1022.
4. Drugs for psychiatric disorders. *Treat Guidel Med Lett* 2006; 4:35.

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