Guidelines for Olanzapine and Risperidone Formulations

Background
Risperidone and olanzapine are available as orodispersible tablets as well as conventional tablets. Additionally, risperidone is available in a liquid formulation. These alternatives to conventional tablets may be helpful to patients with swallowing difficulties or to ensure compliance within supervised settings.

Administration
The method of administration for each of these products is slightly different

Orodispersible and liquid formulations should only be taken as described in the relevant product information leaflet included within the pack (also detailed below).

Any other method would result in them being used outside of their product license. Nursing staff should note the implications of administering these formulations by any method not included in the product information leaflet and not undertake this without the express authorisation of the prescriber. Without such authorisation, which indicates the prescriber is aware of the unlicensed use and is willing to accept responsibility; nurses may be held accountable in the event that any adverse consequences occur.

### Olanzapine Velotabs®

The tablets break easily, so you should handle the tablets carefully. Do not handle the tablets with wet hands as the tablets may break up.  
Hold the blister strip at the edges and separate one blister cell from the rest of the strip by gently tearing along the perforations around it.  
Carefully peel off the backing.  
Gently push the tablet out.  
Put the tablet in your mouth. It will dissolve directly in your mouth, so that it can be easily swallowed. You can also place the tablet in a full glass or cup of water, orange juice, apple juice, milk or coffee, and stir. With some drinks, the mixture may change colour and possibly become cloudy. Drink it straight away.

### Risperidone Liquid

1. Remove the child-resistant cap from the bottle by pushing down on the cap while turning it anti-clockwise (Fig. 1).
2. Place the bottle on a flat surface.
3. Insert the pipette into the liquid in the bottle.
4. While holding the lower ring, pull the top ring upwards until the mark that matches the number of mg or ml to be taken is just visible (Fig. 2).
5. Holding the lower ring, remove the whole pipette from the bottle (Fig. 3). To empty the pipette, push down on the top ring while still holding the lower ring.
6. The contents of the pipette may be emptied directly into the mouth or into a drink of mineral water, orange juice or black coffee.
7. Rinse the pipette with some water.

Replace the child-resistant cap on the bottle by screwing it down clockwise until it locks fully.  
The liquid can be swallowed directly or mixed with some mineral water, orange juice or black coffee. If mixed in this way, the drink must be taken immediately. **The liquid should not be mixed with tea**
### Risperidone Quicklets®

![Image]

The tablet should be placed on the tongue as soon as it is removed from the packaging. It begins breaking up in the mouth within seconds and can then be swallowed with or without water. Your mouth should be empty before placing the tablet on the tongue.

- pull up the edge of the foil and peel foil off completely
- tip the tablet out
- do not break or divide the tablets

### Additional Information

**Olanzapine Velotabs®**
- Contain bovine gelatine, mannitol and aspartame*
- Not suitable for monitored dose systems

**Risperidone Quicklets®**
- Contain bovine gelatine, mannitol and aspartame*
- Not suitable for monitored dose systems

**Risperidone liquid**
- Do not be used for longer than 3 months after the bottle has first been opened
- Is presented as a 1mg in 1ml sugar free solution
- Has the advantage that most doses can be administered in a small volume of liquid

### Cost

Olanzapine Velotabs® are approximately 13% more expensive than the conventional tablets across all strengths.

**Risperidone prices for 1mg in different formulations:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formulation/ Strength of Risperidone</th>
<th>Price per 1mg*</th>
<th>Drug Tariff Price per 1mg**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquid 1mg in 1ml</td>
<td>57p</td>
<td>57p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional tablets 1mg</td>
<td>3p</td>
<td>3p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Quicklets’ 1mg</td>
<td>72p</td>
<td>72p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Current price quoted from hospital pharmacy
** Community prescribing price

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* Aspartame is a source of phenylalanine and may be harmful to people with phenylketonuria