

## PATIENT INFORMATION

### **AVINZA™ Schedule II (morphine sulfate extended-release capsules)**

**AVINZA Capsules, 30 mg  
AVINZA Capsules, 60 mg  
AVINZA Capsules, 90 mg  
AVINZA Capsules, 120 mg**

Carefully read this information and any additional information given to you by your healthcare provider or pharmacist before taking AVINZA (ah-VIN-zah) capsules. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or your treatment. Share this information with members of your household.

#### **What is AVINZA?**

**AVINZA** is a capsule that comes in several strengths (30 mg, 60 mg, 90 mg, and 120 mg) and contains the medicine morphine (MOR-feen), in an extended-release form. **AVINZA** treats moderate to severe pain that is expected to last for more than a few days. Each capsule contains enough medicine to last for 24 hours.

#### **What You Need To Remember About AVINZA**

- **Only use AVINZA the way your healthcare provider recommends.**
- **Only use AVINZA for the condition for which it was prescribed.**
- **AVINZA is not for occasional ("as needed") use.**
- **AVINZA works best when taken at the same time once a day.**
- **Do not crush, dissolve, or chew the contents (beads) of the capsules before swallowing. AVINZA works properly over 24 hours only when the capsules are swallowed whole. Alternatively, the bead contents of the capsule may be sprinkled on applesauce immediately prior to eating. If the beads are crushed, dissolved, or chewed, the entire 24 hour dose may be absorbed into your body all at once. This can lead to serious problems, including overdose and death.**
- **Keep AVINZA out of the reach of children.** Accidental overdose by a child is dangerous and may result in death.
- **Prevent theft and misuse.** AVINZA contains morphine, a narcotic painkiller, that can be a target for people who abuse prescription medicines. Therefore, keep your capsules in a secure place, to protect them from theft. Never give them to anyone else. Selling or giving away this medicine may endanger other individuals and is against the law.

**Do not take AVINZA™ if your healthcare provider did not prescribe AVINZA for you or if:**

- **you have severe asthma or severe lung problems.**
- **you have had a severe allergic reaction to morphine. A severe allergic reaction includes a severe rash, hives, breathing problems, or dizziness.**

**Your healthcare provider should know about all your medical conditions** before deciding if **AVINZA** is right for you and what dose is best. Only you and your healthcare provider can decide if **AVINZA** is right for you.

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical problems, especially the ones listed below:

- trouble breathing or lung problems
- recent head injury or concussion
- liver or kidney problems
- adrenal gland problems, such as Addison's disease
- convulsions or seizures
- alcoholism
- hallucinations or other severe mental problems
- past or present substance abuse or drug addiction

**If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider. AVINZA may not be right for you. Tell your healthcare provider if you are breast feeding.** Morphine will pass through the milk and may harm the baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. They may cause serious medical problems when taken with **AVINZA**, especially if they cause drowsiness.

### **How Should You Take AVINZA?**

- **Follow your healthcare provider's directions exactly.** Your healthcare provider may change your dose based on your reactions to the medicine. Do not change your dose unless your healthcare provider tells you to change it. Do not take **AVINZA** more often than prescribed.
- **Try to take AVINZA at the same time each day.**
- **Do not crush, dissolve, or chew** the contents (beads) of the capsules before swallowing. **If the capsule beads are not swallowed whole, your body will absorb too much medicine at one time. This can lead to serious problems, including overdose and death.**
- **AVINZA capsules may be opened and the entire bead contents sprinkled on a small amount of applesauce immediately prior to eating.**
- **If you miss a dose**, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take 2 doses at once unless instructed by your healthcare provider. If uncertain about your dosing, call your healthcare provider.
- **In case of overdose**, call your local emergency number or poison control center right away.
- **Regularly review your pain symptoms with your healthcare provider.**

- Consult your healthcare provider for instructions on how to stop taking this medicine slowly to avoid uncomfortable symptoms. You should not stop taking **AVINZA™** all at once if you have been taking it for more than a few days.
- If you are instructed to stop taking AVINZA, flush the unused capsules down the toilet.

#### **What Should You Avoid While Taking AVINZA?**

- **Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or participate in any other possibly dangerous activities** until you know how you react to this medicine. **AVINZA** can make you drowsy.
- **Do not drink alcohol while using AVINZA. It may increase the chance of having dangerous side effects.**
- **Do not take other medicines without your healthcare provider's approval.** Other medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and supplements. Be especially careful about products that make you drowsy.

#### **Call Your Healthcare Provider Or Get Medical Help Right Away If**

- your breathing slows down or becomes difficult
- you feel faint, dizzy, confused, or have any other unusual symptoms

#### **What are the Possible Side Effects of AVINZA?**

Some of the common side effects of **AVINZA** are constipation, nausea, drowsiness, and itching. Some of these side effects may decrease with continued use. These are not all the possible side effects of **AVINZA**.

Constipation is a common side effect of opioids, including **AVINZA**. You may wish to discuss steps to prevent or relieve constipation with your healthcare provider.

There is a risk of abuse or addiction with narcotic painkillers. If you have abused drugs in the past, you may have a higher chance of developing an abuse problem or addiction again while using **AVINZA**. It is not known how often patients with continuing (chronic) pain become addicted to narcotics, but the risk has been reported to be small.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about **AVINZA**. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

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