

What is Provigil?

Provigil is a name known to many people, especially those who already thinking of switching to other stimulants than caffeine. But what is it, when can it be used, how to get it without a prescription? Let's figure it out in this post.

What is Provigil used for?

Provigil is a brand name owned by Teva Pharmaceuticals previously registered by Cephalon. The medication is based on the active substance Modafinil, a potent-wakefulness-promoting agent designed primarily for narcolepsy. Now the medication is also officially approved for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and shift work sleep disorder (SWSD).

The drug was designed for narcolepsy because in this condition an individual cannot stay awake for the whole day even if they sleep sufficiently during the night due to a characteristic violation of the sleep-wake cycle regulation. People with the condition can fall asleep multiple times a day if they don't use stimulants. Before Modafinil, they were using amphetamines but with the creation of the new drug, amphetamines became the second-line medications, i.e. used only if Modafinil cannot be used for some reason. Such a drastic switch is explained by the fact that Modafinil is not inferior to amphetamines in the potency of wakefulness-promoting effect but has much fewer adverse reactions, the occurrence of their likelihood is lower, and the drug doesn't cause addiction.

Provigil, or more correctly, generic versions of the drug based on Modafinil, are very popular for off-label uses, i.e. for the promotion of wakefulness, cognitive functions, and productivity in people without the conditions for which the drug can be prescribed. The reasons for the drug's popularity for off-label uses are the same as for the replacement of amphetamines with this drug in the therapy of narcolepsy, i.e. potent effect with minimum adverse effects.

Although officially off-label uses are not encouraged, considering that SWSD and OSA for which the drug is approved are basically conditions in which sleepiness is caused by the lack of sleep, we can certainly say that Modafinil can be used by virtually anyone who is excessively drowsy during the daytime or during a night work shift. This is proven by the fact that military forces and air traffic control agencies officially recognize that they use Modafinil for their officers. Naturally, they use it off-label because people with the conditions for which the drug is appointed wouldn't be able to serve in such the army.

How to get prescribed Provigil?

Actually, only people with narcolepsy can without any trouble get a prescription for Provigil. But even people with the other two conditions for which the drug is approved may face difficulties trying to get a prescription because they would need multiple expensive tests done to confirm OSA or SWSD and not many doctors are ready to diagnose SWSD. And for people who want to use Provigil off-label, there is basically no chance of getting a prescription. But there is an easy way out – anyone can order Modafinil without a prescription from an online drugstore located in the country where the drug is released without Rx. Besides, ordering the generic version of the drug online is much cheaper than buying it at a regular drugstore. For instance, the brand drug Provigil costs around \$40 per pill (if the insurance doesn't cover a part of its cost), and the generic version is priced at just around \$1.44 per pill.

Where to buy Provigil?

If you live in a country where Provigil is sold with a prescription-only, look for online pharmacies located abroad that ship internationally.

How can you use Provigil off-label?

First of all, I would recommend checking the official drug instruction or guide to see whether you have or not the contraindications for the pills use. If you can use the drug, then the standard dosage is 200 mg a day. But for people who use the drug off-label, it is optimal to start using the medication from 100 mg a day. First of all, it will show how well you tolerate the drug. Secondly, if you don't have narcolepsy, this dosage can be sufficient for the whole day. And if not, you can take the whole pill in 24 hours. The maximum daily dosage is 400 mg.

Keep in mind that any dosage of Modafinil should be taken at least 10 hours before you plan to go to bed.

What side effects can Provigil cause?

The medication is unlikely to cause side effects if you don't have contraindications for its use and if you take the pills correctly. However, during the first couple of days of use, you may experience insomnia (especially, if you take a pill less than 10 hours before sleep), nausea, headache, and anxiety. Usually, these adverse reactions fade within several days and do not repeat in the repeated use of the pills. But if they persist or you develop other severe adverse effects or skin rash, you should refrain from using Modafinil.

How long does Provigil last?

The effect of the medication starts to manifest within one hour after a single dosage intake and lasts for 8-10 hours.