

Medication Information

ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATION INFORMATION

Neuroleptics: Thorazine (chlorpromazine), Mellaril (thioridazine), Haldol (haloperidol), Prolixin (fluphenazine), Navane (thiothixene), Trilafon (thioridazine), Stelazine (trifluoperazine), Loxitane, (loxapine), Moban (molindine), Orap (pimozide)

Atypicals: Clozaril (clozapine), Risperdal (risperidone), Zyprexa (olanzapine), Seroquel (quetiapine), Geodon (ziprasidone), Abilify (arapiprazole), Saphris (asenapine), Invega (paliperdaone), Fanapt (iolperidone), Latuda (lurasidone)

Indications: These medications are used to treat psychotic symptoms (such as hallucinations, delusions, & disordered thinking). They can also be helpful in controlling agitation, anger outbursts, & aggressive behavior. Some atypicals are used as mood stabilizers or to enhance the treatment of depression.

Precautions: These medications should be taken on a regular basis & not stopped suddenly. Do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how the medication affects you.

- Avoid alcohol & street drugs while taking these medications.
- Notify your doctor if you become or are planning to become pregnant.
- Smoking increases the metabolism of these medications & can change their effectiveness.
- With prolonged use of these medications, symptoms can become more disabling, so some attempt to taper medication should be considered after a sufficient period of stability.
- There is an increased risk of death from cardiac causes in elderly patients taking these.
- Patients on antipsychotics for a extended period of time may develop a potentially irreversible involuntary movement disorder called Tardive Dyskinesia.
 - o Patients on neuroleptics may develop a rare but potentially fatal condition with high fever, confusion, muscle stiffness, & irregular heartbeat.
- Patients on atypicals (especially Zyprexa, Risperdal, & Seroquel) may develop a metabolic condition characterized by weight gain, elevated blood sugar, & elevated cholesterol or triglycerides.

Clozaril may produce a marked decrease in the white blood cell count, causing vulnerability to infections. Frequent monitoring of the blood count is required.

- Latuda should not be used in combination with any of the following other medications: Tegretol, Trileptal, Serzone, St John's Wort, Dilantin, Mysoline, Barbiturates, Decadron, Quinidine, Rifampin, Cytadren, Tracleer, Sustiva, Efavirine, Atripla, Intelence, Cerebyx, Nafcillin, Viramune, Viracept, Norvir, Invirase, Ketek, VFEND, Cardene, Noxafil, Mycobutin, Priftin, Agenerase, Reyataz, Biaxin, Vaprisol, Prezaista, Rescriptoe, Lexiva, Gleevec, Crixivan, Isoniazid, Sporanox, Nizoral, Lopinavir, Kaletra, Miconazole.

Possible Side Effects Include: drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision, seizures, dry mouth, constipation, indigestion, low blood pressure, rapid heartbeat, headache, intense dreams, lethargy, breast swelling or discharge, cessation of menstrual periods, sexual dysfunction, urinary hesitancy, muscle stiffness or spasms, restlessness, slowed movement & speech, poor memory & concentration, loss of motivation, depressed moods, & increased sensitivity to the effects of sunlight & heat. Other adverse effects not listed here can occur. Inform your doctor if you develop any unusual or disturbing symptoms.

Alternate Treatments: There are no alternative medications for treating psychotic symptoms. Other mood stabilizers include: Lithium, Depakote, Tegretol, Trileptal, Topomax, & Lamictal. Omega-3 fatty acids (fish oil supplements) may improve milder mood swings in some people. Various forms of psychotherapy are often helpful, & with time psychotic symptoms & mood disorders may improve without medication. However, they frequently become more severe & chronic.