



Patient Information - Antipsychotics

Medication Name with Generic									
Expected Benefits	These medications may be used to treat conditions other than those listed. Atypical Anti-psychotics are indicated for the management of symptoms of psychotic disorders including hearing voices, seeing things, social isolation, decrease in interest, appetite and energy, and the inability to distinguish between real and imagined. These medications are less likely to cause movement side effects (like shaking, trembling or muscle stiffness) often associated with the conventional treatment.								
Alternative Treatments	Alternatives to the use of Atypical Anti-Psychotics include: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">a. No treatment</td> <td style="width: 33%;">c. Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)</td> <td style="width: 33%;">e. Other: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Psychotherapy</td> <td>d. Long term hospitalization</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	a. No treatment	c. Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)	e. Other: _____	b. Psychotherapy	d. Long term hospitalization	_____		
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Important	It is important to take your medicine as prescribed and to follow all of your physician's instructions while taking this medicine.								
WARNING	Increased risk of death in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis. Watch for suicidality in children and adolescents. All patients should be monitored for unusual behavior changes, clinical worsening. Persons taking this medication must pay attention to fever, rapid heart rate, convulsions, pallor, tiredness, severe muscle stiffness. These may be signs of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome and requires healthcare intervention immediately.								
Side Effects *	Any medication may produce unwanted side effects along with the desired results. Some side effects may appear even before the benefit from the medication is seen. If side effects do appear, they usually fade during continued treatment. Examples of side effects which may occur include:								
Frequently	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Dizziness</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Drowsiness</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Weight gain</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Insomnia</td> </tr> </table>	Dizziness	Drowsiness	Weight gain	Insomnia				
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Occasionally	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Headaches</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Blurred vision</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Muscle stiffness</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Lightheaded on standing abruptly</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Rapid heart beat</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Seizure</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Constipation</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Headaches	Blurred vision	Muscle stiffness	Lightheaded on standing abruptly	Rapid heart beat	Seizure	Constipation	
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Rarely	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Tremors</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Increase salivation</td> <td style="width: 33%; text-align: center;">Reduced sex drive</td> </tr> </table> <p>Although these medications have been used safely by most people, there have been reports of death and disability from reactions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A serious depression of the white blood cells. • Discoloration of the skin could develop after taking Thorazine or Mellaril in large doses for a prolonged period of time. Pigmentation changes can occur in the eyes, but rarely affect vision. • Normal body temperature may be altered (more sensitivity to environmental temperature changes). • Persistent involuntary jerking movements of the tongue, face, neck, and body may occur, but usually only in patients who have taken large doses of medication over long periods of time. This condition known as Tardive Dyskinesia may not be reversible and can appear after the medication is stopped. 	Tremors	Increase salivation	Reduced sex drive					
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*** ANY SIDE EFFECTS SHOULD BE REPORTED AND DISCUSSED WITH THE DOCTOR, NURSE, AND / OR PHARMACIST.**

Interactions with other meds, natural products	Sometimes medicines interfere with each other. You should tell each doctor or dentist you see about all medications you are taking. It is very important to consult with your physician or pharmacist to see if the other medicines you are taking (including those obtained without a prescription) are compatible with this medicine.
Cautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid all alcoholic beverages until your regular daily dose has been established. Therefore, use extreme caution if you decide to drink. Be aware that the effects of both alcohol and this medication may be intensified • Dizziness may temporarily impair your ability to drive or operate machinery. You should avoid these activities until you are familiar with the effects of your medicine. • Do not breastfeed while taking these medications. • Your skin may be sensitive to sunlight, and may burn easily. If this occurs to you, wear protective clothing or use a sunscreen product when you are outdoors. • Some people may be allergic to these medicines. Symptoms might include skin rashes, itching, sneezing, fever or swelling of the face and tongue. If these symptoms occur, contact your doctor. • ALL MEDICINE SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.
Food-Drug Interaction	These medications may cause weight loss or weight gain. Discuss your individual needs with your physician.