



Patient Information - Clozaril

Medication Name <i>(with Generic)</i>					
Expected Benefits	Clozaril may be more effective in controlling positive, negative, and overall symptoms of psychosis than other conventional anti-psychotics and might produce fewer neurological side effects than other drugs which patients may have received previously. Clozaril has no or few movement side effects, such as shaking, trembling, or muscle stiffness.				
Alternative Treatments	Alternatives to the use of Clozaril include: <table style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: top; margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>a. No treatment</td> <td>c. Conventional anti-psychotics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>b. Atypical AntiPsychotics</td> <td>d. Long-term hospitalization</td> </tr> </table>	a. No treatment	c. Conventional anti-psychotics	b. Atypical AntiPsychotics	d. Long-term hospitalization
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Important	<p>It is very important to take your medicine as prescribed and to follow all of your physician's instructions while taking this medicine. Clozaril should be used with caution in patients having history of seizures or other predisposing factors.</p> <p>** <u>Weekly blood tests are required to monitor for the occurrence of Agranulocytosis.</u> **</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Agranulocytosis is a failure to produce white Blood Cells which can result in serious infection) • Clozaril is less likely than other drugs to produce certain common side effects frequently troublesome to patients, such as stiffness, tremor, and restlessness, and may be far less likely to cause or worsen involuntary movements (Tardive Dyskinesia) than other standard treatments. <p>Patients should pay particular attention to any flu-like complaints or symptoms that suggest infection (i.e., fever, lethargy, weakness, sore throat, malaise, mucous membrane ulceration) and report them immediately.</p>
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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	Faintness Blurred vision	Decrease in blood pressure Drowsiness	Constipation Rapid heart beat
Occasionally	Hypotension Tremor	Seizure Headache	Sweating
Rarely	Agranulocytosis (failure to produce WBCs)	Insomnia	Muscle weakness Lethargy

*** 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. Take with food.		
Cautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seizures may occur in patient with a history of seizures or EEG abnormalities. • Dizziness may temporarily impair your ability to drive or to operate machinery. You should avoid these activities until you are familiar with the effects of your medicine. • You should avoid drinking alcoholic beverages while taking this medicine. • If you plan to become pregnant or suspect that you are, notify your doctor. • DO NOT breastfeed while taking this medicine. • ALL MEDICATIONS SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN 		
Avoid these medications unless specifically approved by your doctor	Seizure medicine Blood pressure medicine	Anti-cholinergics Cold & Allergy preparations	Tranquilizer / Sleeping pills Bone marrow suppression medicines