

## MEDICATION INFORMATION & CONSENT

### Atypical Antipsychotics

#### Indications for Use

\_\_\_\_\_ is an antipsychotic medication approved to treat symptoms of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, including disorganized thinking, impaired concentrations, delusions, and hallucinations. Drugs in this class have been shown to improve both the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia.

Goals of treatment with this drug should focus on improvement of quality of life, and reduced risk of negative behavior symptoms impacting you, or those around you, including distressful negative psychotic symptoms. Ongoing assessment of the benefits of therapy, compared to the potential risks, should be performed regularly to maximize the potential for positive outcomes.

It may take a few weeks before improvement is felt after beginning the medication. It is important to take your medication as the physician prescribes it.

#### Alternatives to Using This Medication

- a) No treatment
- b) Psychotherapy
- c) Electroconvulsive therapy
- d) Acute hospitalization
- e) Other antipsychotic medications

#### Side Effects

Any medication may produce unwanted effects along with the desired results. Some side effects may appear even before any benefit from the medicine is experienced. If side effects do appear they may occasionally disappear with continued treatment. Examples of side effects with drugs in this class may include, but are not limited to:

- Fall in blood pressure with body position changes
- Dizziness
- Constipation
- Weight Gain – Increased Appetite
- Sleepiness or sedation
- Dyspepsia – stomach upset
- Dry mouth
- Tremor or twitching, including feelings of restlessness
- Agitation

And Less Common Side Effects could also include but are not limited to:

- Back or joint pain
- Irregular heartbeat
- Stuttering
- Amnesia
- Sensitivity to the sun

ALL SIDE EFFECTS SHOULD BE REPORTED & DISCUSSED WITH THE DOCTOR, NURSE  
AND/OR PHARMACIST

#### Warnings and Precautions

**Blood Sugar Effect-** Increases in blood sugar may occur and could be complicated by pre-existing diabetes. In some cases increases in blood sugar can be extreme and may be associated with ketoacidosis or hyperosmolar coma or death. Blood sugars should be monitored during therapy to help prevent, and reduce risks of, any complications from potential blood sugar increases.

**Elderly Patients With Dementia-Related Psychosis-** Placebo-controlled clinical trials show the incidence of death in atypical antipsychotic-treated patients was significantly greater than placebo-treated patients (3.5%

vs. 1.5% respectively). Risk factors that may predispose this patient population to increased mortality when treated with this class of drug include age above 80 years, sedation, concomitant use of benzodiazepines, or presence of pulmonary conditions (e.g. pneumonia, with or without aspiration). Currently, no atypical antipsychotic is FDA approved for the treatment of dementia-related psychosis.

**Cerebrovascular Adverse Events-** Events such as stroke, transient ischemic attack and even including fatalities, were reported in patients in trials of atypical antipsychotics in elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis. In placebo-controlled studies, there was a significantly higher incidence of cerebrovascular adverse events in patients treated with olanzapine compared to patients treated with placebo.

**Tardive Dyskinesia-** This is a syndrome of potentially irreversible, involuntary, dyskinetic movements. It may develop in patients treated with antipsychotic drugs. Although the prevalence of the syndrome appears to be highest among the elderly, especially elderly women, it is impossible to rely upon prevalence estimates to predict, at the inception of antipsychotic treatment, which patients are likely to develop the syndrome. Whether antipsychotic drug products differ in their potential to cause tardive dyskinesia is unknown. Risks increase as the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose increase.

**Drowsiness and Impaired Coordination-** Because of possible drowsiness and some loss of muscle control, your ability to drive, operate machinery or perform other tasks requiring alertness and coordination may be impaired. For this reason, you should avoid such hazardous duties until you are familiar with the effects this medication has upon you. Do not take this medication with alcohol. Be aware that the effects of alcohol may be intensified.

**Drug Allergy-** Some people may be allergic to this medication. Symptoms may be skin rash, itching, sneezing, fever or swelling of the face and tongue. If you should experience any of these symptoms, call your physician immediately.

**Pregnancy and Lactation-** Women should notify their physician if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Women should not breast feed infants while on this medication.

**Body Temperature-** Because of the potential impact of atypical antipsychotics on body temperature regulation, extreme caution must be used when doing any activity that could increase body temperature, such as exercising strenuously, exposure to extreme heat, or reduced fluid intake or dehydration.

**Interactions with Other Medications**

Be sure to tell the physician prescribing this medication about other physical problems and all medications that you are taking. It is particularly important when taking this medication to consult with the doctor and/or pharmacist to see if other medicines, including those taken without a prescription (e.g. over-the-counter and herbal remedies), are compatible with this medication.

**A PERSON ACCEPTING TREATMENT VOLUNTARILY HAS THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REFUSE MEDICATION**

The above information has been discussed with the patient, and/or guardian/conservator, if appropriate, who reports them to be understood and agrees to take the medication.

Resident signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Nurse/MD Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian/Conservator \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name	First Name	Medical Record #
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