

A brief guide on Atypical Anti-Psychotics

The various atypical antipsychotics have each different side effect profiles. As compared to typical antipsychotics, atypical antipsychotics drugs produce less movement related disorders (Extrapyramidal symptoms). In addition, these atypical antipsychotics are considered to be more effective for apathy and withdrawal associated psychoses than older generation antipsychotics.

There are several types of Atypical Anti-psychotics:

Clozapine

Clozapine can cause the level of white blood cells to decrease. This means that the person will have a reduced ability to fight infection. However, clozapine is the only drug shown to be effective for patient with treatment-resistant psychotic disorders.

Side Effects can include:

- Sedation
- Dizziness
- Hypotension
- Constipation
- Increased salivation
- Increased heart rate

Risperidone

Risperidone is indicated for treating psychotic symptoms, and reducing feeling of irritability, reducing self-harm behaviors, and reducing aggression.

Side Effects can include:

- Weight gain
- Restlessness, agitation
- Insomnia
- Lower blood pressure
- Sexual side effects

Olanzapine

This antipsychotic drug helps reduces hallucinations and reduces feeling of agitation. Furthermore, Olanzapine may help in stabilizing mood and reduce mood swings.

Side Effects can include:

- Dry mouth
- Weight gain
- Drowsiness
- Akathisia (a feeling of inner restlessness)

Quetiapine

This antipsychotic drug helps reduce hallucinations and improves concentration. Furthermore, this medication can help reduce severity and frequency of mood swings.

Side Effects Include:

- Weight gain
- Drowsiness
- Dry mouth
- Abdominal pain
- Indigestion

Precaution

Do not mix western medication with traditional Chinese medication.

The information provided serves as psycho-education and not a guide for self-medication. The information contained herein is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, warnings, drug interactions, allergic reactions, or adverse effects. Please consult your psychiatrist before taking any medication.



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