



# QUETIAPINE



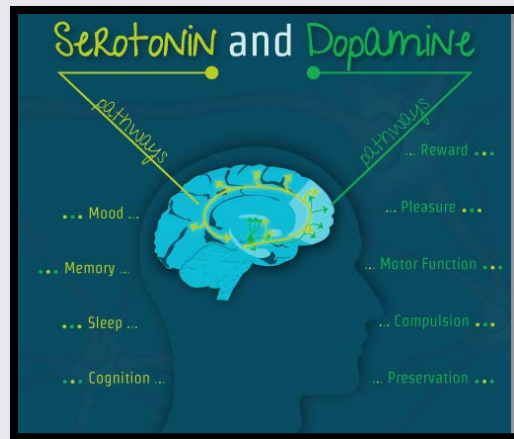
**TOP APS DRUGS**  
**QUETIAPINE**  
**BRAND NAME: SEROQUEL (XR)**

Quetiapine

# Pharmacodynamics

*study of what a drug does to the body*

Quetiapine works to affect various neurotransmitters in the brain, in particular serotonin (5HT) and dopamine.



Both, dopamine and serotonin, are neurotransmitters known to be involved in regulating mood and behavior.

Exactly how it works is not completely known but it is thought to block the receptors in the brain that dopamine acts on, preventing excessive activity of dopamine and help control schizophrenia.

Quetiapine

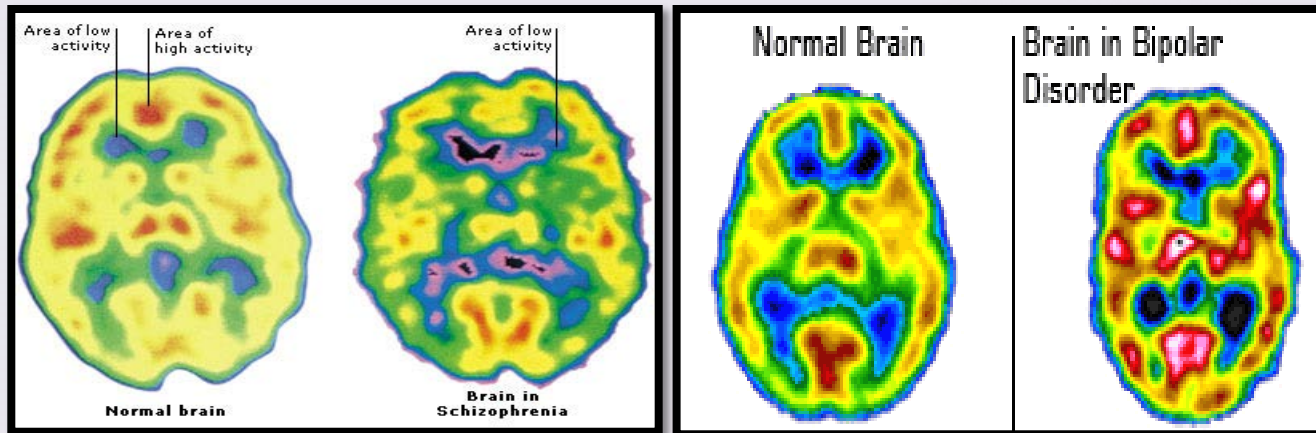


# Pharmacology

*science of drug action on biological systems*

Quetiapine is an atypical antipsychotic, used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar affective disorder.

The medication is also licensed for the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder, typically if antidepressants are not effective enough.



Quetiapine



# Side Effects

## Common Side Effects:

- Sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Dry mouth
- Weight gain
- Raised levels of cholesterol in blood
- Drop in blood pressure when moving
- Constipation, indigestion and vomiting
- Problems with speech
- Increased blood glucose levels
- Tachycardia (Faster than normal heartbeat)
- Weakness or loss of strength
- Unusual dreams



## Severe Side Effects:

- Increased blood levels of prolactin hormone (females may lose period, production of breast milk, males experience erectile problems)
- Arrhythmia
- Decrease in number of white blood cells/platelets in the blood
- Seizures
- Restless legs syndrome
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes)
- Hepatitis
- Abnormal blood clots in blood vessels
- Sleepwalking
- Tardive dyskinesia
- Painful erection of the penis that lasts for hours



Quetiapine

If any of these severe side effects are seen, call doctor immediately!



# Associated Risks

With the prolonged use of antipsychotics, tardive dyskinesia (TD), involuntary movements of the tongue, lips, face, trunk and extremities, is a primary associated risk that develops.

Medications such as quetiapine have been shown to have a lower risk of TD compared to older antipsychotics, such as haloperidol.

With second generation antipsychotics (SGA), an increased risk of diabetes, weight gain, high cholesterol and triglycerides is present.

Because of its antipsychotic features, quetiapine also, may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions in young adults and children and increase the risk of death when used to treat mental problems caused by dementia in elderly patients.

**NOTE:** *Because deaths have been reported and linked to heart problems from patients with dementia-related problems who had taken the medication, quetiapine is **NOT APPROVED** by the FDA to treat mental problems caused by dementia.*

Quetiapine



# Contraindications

*A specific situation in which a drug, procedure, or surgery should not be used because it may be harmful to the patient.*

Quetiapine should generally not be given to patients with (who) ...

- are allergic to any ingredient in quetiapine.
- have low blood potassium or magnesium levels.
- have a history of certain types of irregular heartbeat.
- are taking certain antiarrhythmic medicines.

Quetiapine



# Pregnancy Risks

Limited published human data have reported no major malformations associated with use during pregnancy, but animal studies have revealed evidence of embryo-fetal toxicity.

There have been reports that neonates exposed to antipsychotic drugs during the third trimester of pregnancy are at risk of experiencing extrapyramidal neurological disturbances and/or withdrawal symptoms following delivery.

It is recommended that quetiapine should be used during pregnancy **ONLY** if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

For breastfeeding, the use of quetiapine is not recommended due to milk samples from a study that revealed a breastfed infant receiving ~0.09% - 0.43% of a weight-adjusted maternal dose of quetiapine. A decision should be made to discontinue breastfeeding or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother, if needed.



Quetiapine





# Potential Dangers

## Alcohol:

- Drinking alcohol may increase the effects of quetiapine such as drowsiness, dizziness & sleepiness.

## Interference with Cognitive & Motor Performance:

- Individuals are cautioned against engaging in hazardous occupations requiring mental alertness such as driving or operating machinery.

## Grapefruit:

- Individuals are cautioned against drinking grapefruit juice or eating grapefruit while taking quetiapine as it may increase the level of this medicine in your blood and increase the risk of side effects.



## Overheating and Dehydration:

- It is noted to avoid any actions that may cause overheating or dehydration, such as extreme exercising and staying in the sun or an area that is extremely hot, in an individual taking quetiapine.

## Abuse:

- It has been noted by doctors and drug-abuse experts that Seroquel has been abused by people looking for a recreational 'high.' Given names such as "quell," "Suzie-Q," and "Q-ball," it is used to cause drowsiness.
- Abuse of Seroquel is considered very dangerous, especially when crushed and snorted.

## Patients with diseases:

- Quetiapine may induce specific reactions, varying on the disease the patient may have, and cause certain risks such as seizures, depression, suicidal thoughts, arrhythmias, hypotension, etc.

Quetiapine



# Potential Dangers continued

**Other prescriptions: (Some MEDS MAY INTERACT with quetiapine!)**

**There are over 1068 drugs (5483 brand and generic names) that are known to interact with quetiapine.**

**Always be cautious with drug interactions and always remind doctors of the client's use of quetiapine**

**Listed below is a link to the site that has all medications that interact with quetiapine.**



**<http://www.drugs.com/drug-interactions/quetiapine.html>**

**NOTE: Some drugs have multiple combinations with quetiapine. Please be aware of the combos that quetiapine can interact with.**

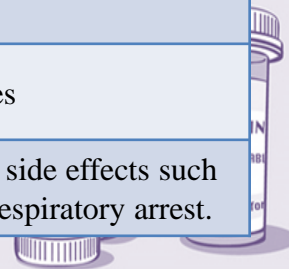
Quetiapine



# Common Meds, among APS clients, for Quetiapine

<b>Severity</b>		<b>Risks</b>
<u>High</u> (117 meds)	<u>Moderate</u> ( 939 meds)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ketoconazole (Nizoral)</li> <li>• Ritonavir (Norvir)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aripiprazole (Abilify)</li> <li>• Fluvoxamine (Luvox)</li> </ul>	Increase side effects such as drowsiness, blurred vision, dry mouth, heat intolerance, difficulty urinating, constipation, irregular heartbeat and memory problems.
•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorazepam (Ativan)</li> <li>• Duloxetine (Cymbalta)</li> <li>• Clonazepam (Klonopin)</li> <li>• Pregabalin (Lyrica)</li> <li>• Alprazolam (Xanax)</li> <li>• Cetirizine (Alleroff)</li> </ul>	Cause excessive sedation, confusion, dizziness or lack of coordination.
•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metoprolol (Tartrate)</li> <li>• Benzaepiril</li> <li>• Carvedilol (Coreg)</li> <li>• Fluoxetine (Prozac)</li> </ul>	Have additive effects in lowering blood pressure. Experience headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, fainting and changes in pulse and heart rate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citalopram (Celexa)</li> <li>• Escitalopram (Lexapro)</li> <li>• Haloperidol (Haldol)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albuterol (ProAir HFA)</li> <li>• Sertraline (Zoloft)</li> <li>• Lithium (Lithobid)</li> <li>• Risperidone (Risperdal)</li> </ul>	Increase risk of irregular heart rhythm that may be serious and life-threatening.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bupropion</li> <li>• Tramadol (ConZip)</li> </ul>	•	Increase risk of seizures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clozapine (Clozaril)</li> </ul>		Increase risk of serious cardiovascular side effects such as low blood pressure and cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Quetiapine



# Laboratory Monitoring

Lab tests, such as body mass index (BMI), waist circumference, glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), fasting plasma glucose and fasting lipid panel, are recommended annual lab monitoring for patients taking atypical antipsychotics such as quetiapine.

Because generally all antipsychotics have been associated with the risk of sudden cardiac death due to arrhythmia, an EKG may be ordered to monitor for irregular heart beat.



Quetiapine



# (Self) Administration Instructions

Take quetiapine exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

This medication comes in regular-release that are typically taken twice a day (once a day at bedtime when treating depressive episodes of bipolar disorder). These tablets can be taken with or without food.

Seroquel XR tablets should be taken once a day without food, at least one hour before a meal. The tablets should be swallowed whole and not broken, crushed or chewed!

Antipsychotic treatment is generally needed lifelong for patients with schizophrenia. It may take 2-3 months before a patient gets the full benefit of quetiapine.

Quetiapine



# Dosage

The dosage for quetiapine will vary from person to person. It is important to follow the instructions given by the doctor.

Typically, patients will begin at a low dose and increase slowly over several weeks. For schizophrenia, a typical adult dose may range from 150mg to 750mg a day. For bipolar disorder, a typical adult dose may range from 400mg to 800mg a day.

Quetiapine



# Management & Planning

Quetiapine (Seroquel) should not be used for any other condition for which it was not prescribed. Seroquel may be actively promoted for off-label uses, that may not be prescribed by the doctor for the patient.

For some illnesses, such as schizophrenia, long-term treatment is required and necessary and therefore, quetiapine should be taken regularly, even when a patient may feel better.

**Miss a dose?** Take the missed dose as soon as remembered. If it is near the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. DO NOT double your dose.

**Overdose?** Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line @ 1-800-222-1222.

**NOTE: Ingesting 13.6 grams of Seroquel will result in a fatal overdose.**

**Changing dose?** Consult with a doctor and follow your doctor's instructions about tapering your dose.

Quetiapine should be stored at room temperature.

Quetiapine



# Nonadherence & Withdrawal

It is important to note that if the drug use is stopped suddenly, it can cause withdrawal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and sleep problems.

In an conducted study experimenting with tolerance, Quetiapine XR is an effective and generally, well-tolerated treatment for schizophrenia. Furthermore, once-daily dosing may improve patient adherence, which may impact positively on patient outcomes.

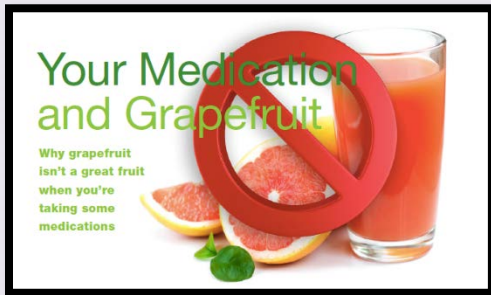
Quetiapine





# Diet/Exercise

Food interactions: Drinking grapefruit juice or eating grapefruit is highly discouraged as it may increase the level of quetiapine in your blood and increase the risk of side effects.



Smoking: No known effect associated with quetiapine.

It is important to note that a patient on quetiapine should avoid getting overheated and dehydrated. Thus, avoiding over-exercising, staying in the sun and hot weather too long and wearing heavy clothing if not necessary.

It is also important to remain hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

Quetiapine



# Additional Resources



Rx Outreach is committed to helping qualified patients get the medicines they need for inexpensive prices.

<http://rxoutreach.org/>

1-888-796-1234

Quetiapine

