

Clozapine (cloz-a-peen)

You should read this leaflet with your carer/caregiver.



Clozapine:

- Is also called Clozaril, Denzapine or Zaponex.
- Come as tablets or liquid.

- Clozapine is used for psychosis and schizophrenia.
- Clozapine is sometimes used for people who are distressed. There is no clear evidence that it improves someone's behaviour.

The label on your clozapine packet should tell you when and how much medicine to take.

Swallow your tablet with water. For liquid, shake well for 10 seconds, measure and swallow the liquid.

If you have Zaponex, you should let the tablet melt on your tongue and swallow OR mix it in any drink but NOT coke.

If you forget to take your medicine, tell someone straight away.

You should carry on taking your medicine even if you feel better unless your doctor asks you to stop.



Drinking alcohol when taking clozapine could make you feel sleepy.

Some medicines do not work well together.

You should tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.

Regular blood tests must be done for:

- Full blood count.

Side effects:


- Medicine can have certain effects on your body that are not wanted.
- Not everyone taking a medicine will get them.
- Many will go away with time.
- Many are rare.

You might want to talk to your doctor or the pharmacist or your key worker if you have any side effect.

These are some (but NOT all) side effects of clozapine...



- Feeling sleepy or sluggish and tired
- May affect your heart function (check ECG)
- Dry mouth
- Drooling or excessive spit
- Get sunburnt easily (take precaution)
- You may lose interest in sex
- Headache
- Constipation or upset tummy

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- May increase your blood sugar level (check blood test)
 - May increase your blood fat (cholesterol) (check blood test)
 - Feeling more hungry and putting on weight (check weight)
 - May lead to diabetes (check blood test)
 - Feeling dizzy when you stand up (check blood pressure)
 - Change in blood cells which may lead to serious, life threatening infection (check blood tests regularly)

Some side effects are more serious.

You should tell someone straight away if you have...

- High temperature and stiffness (check blood test)
- Shaky movements in face, mouth, arms and legs
- Sweating and loss of senses (check blood test)

You should talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medicine.

Sometimes, if you stop taking your medicine, you may have:

- Stiffness
- Problems moving
- Distressing behaviour
- Restlessness and anxiety



This leaflet does not tell you everything about clozapine.

You can get more information from:

- your pharmacist, doctor, nurse or carer/care giver
- check <http://www.choiceandmedication.org/cnwl/>
- NHS on 111
- medicine information helpline on 020 3317 5090.



This leaflet can be downloaded free of charge from:

<https://spectrom.wixsite.com/project/>

While preparing this leaflet we checked information in...

- The British National Formulary (www.bnf.org)
- Dulcan, M. K., & Ballard, R. (2015). *Helping parents and teachers understand medications for behavioural and emotional problems: A resource book of medication information handouts*. American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC, USA.

This leaflet is not designed for people with intellectual/learning disabilities to read on their own. Support (care) staff or care givers should go through the leaflet with the person who has intellectual disabilities.

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