

Editorial Questionnaire

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1. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1=Poor, 5=Excellent), please indicate your level of interest and/or satisfaction with the editorial content in this issue.

Review Articles

Brain Stimulation Methods in the Treatment of Affective Disorders

1 2 3 4 5

Departments

Clinical Updates in Neuropsychiatry

1 2 3 4 5

From the Editor's Desk

1 2 3 4 5

CME

1 2 3 4 5

2. Which areas of neuropsychiatry would you like us to cover in the future?

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- Psychiatrist
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- The Use of Lithium in Bipolar Disorder
- Part 1: Recognizing Comorbidities Associated With Bipolar Disorder
- Part 2: Remission-Oriented Treatment Considerations of Bipolar Disorder
- Part 3: Optimizing Therapeutic Options in the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder
- Recognizing Comorbidities Associated With ADHD

Clinical Pocket Reference Guides

- The 2003 Black Book of Psychotropic Dosing and Monitoring
- The Diagnostic and Therapeutic Guide to Sleep Disorders
- The Effects of Antidepressants on Human Sexuality
- Dosing and Monitoring Guidelines: Mood Disorders
- The Side-Effect Profiles of Antipsychotic Medications
- The Black Book of Geriatric Psychopharmacology

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

SEROQUEL is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia. The efficacy of **SEROQUEL** in schizophrenia was established in short-term (6-week) controlled trials of schizophrenic inpatients (See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**). The effectiveness of **SEROQUEL** in long-term use, that is, for more than 6 weeks, has not been systematically evaluated in controlled trials. Therefore, the physician who elects to use **SEROQUEL** for extended periods should periodically re-evaluate the long-term usefulness of the drug for the individual patient.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

SEROQUEL is contraindicated in individuals with a known hypersensitivity to this medication or any of its ingredients.

WARNINGS

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS): A potentially fatal symptom complex sometimes referred to as Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) has been reported in association with administration of antipsychotic drugs. Two possible cases of NMS (2/2387, 0.1%) have been reported in clinical trials with **SEROQUEL**. Clinical manifestations of NMS are hyperreflexia, muscle rigidity, altered mental status, and evidence of autonomic instability (irregular pulse or blood pressure, tachycardia, diaphoresis, and cardiac dysrhythmia). Additional signs may include elevated creatine phosphokinase, myoglobinuria (rhabdomyolysis) and acute renal failure. The diagnostic evaluation of patients with this syndrome is complicated. In arriving at a diagnosis, it is important to exclude cases where the clinical presentation includes both serious medical illness (e.g., pneumonia, systemic infection, etc.) and untreated or inadequately treated extrapyramidal signs and symptoms (EPS). Other important considerations in the differential diagnosis include central anticholinergic toxicity, heat stroke, drug fever and neuroleptic malignant syndrome, which is usually self-limiting. The management of NMS should include: (1) immediate discontinuation of antipsychotic drugs and other drugs not essential to concurrent therapy; (2) intensive symptomatic treatment and medical monitoring; and (3) treatment of any concomitant serious medical problems for which specific treatments are available. There is no general agreement about specific pharmacologic treatment regimens for NMS. If a patient requires antipsychotic drug treatment after recovery from NMS, the potential re-introduction of drug therapy should be carefully considered. The patient should be carefully monitored since recurrences of NMS have been reported. **Tardive Dyskinesia:** A syndrome of potentially irreversible, involuntary, dyskinetic movements 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 also seen in younger age groups. It is usually more likely to develop in patients receiving antipsychotic treatment, which patients are likely to develop the syndrome. Whether antipsychotic drug products differ in their potential to cause tardive dyskinesia is unknown. The risk of developing tardive dyskinesia and the likelihood that it will become irreversible are believed to increase as the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose of antipsychotic drugs administered to the patient increase. However, the syndrome can develop, although less commonly, after relatively brief treatment at low doses. There is no known treatment, or established cases of tardive dyskinesia, although the syndrome may remit, partially or completely, if antipsychotic treatment is withdrawn. Antipsychotic treatment, itself, however, may suppress (or partially suppress) the signs and symptoms of the syndrome and thereby may possibly mask the underlying process. The effect that symptomatic suppression has upon the long-term course of the syndrome is unknown. Given these considerations, **SEROQUEL** should be prescribed in a manner that is most likely to minimize the occurrence of tardive dyskinesia. Chronic antipsychotic treatment should generally be reserved for patients who appear to suffer from a chronic illness that (1) is known to respond to antipsychotic drugs, and (2) for whom alternative, equally effective, but potentially less harmful treatments are not available or appropriate. In patients who do require chronic treatment, the smallest effective dose and the shortest duration of treatment producing a satisfactory clinical response should be used. The need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear in a patient on **SEROQUEL**, drug discontinuation should be considered. However, some patients may require treatment with **SEROQUEL** despite the presence of the syndrome.

PRECAUTIONS

General: **Orthostatic Hypotension:** **SEROQUEL** may induce orthostatic hypotension associated with dizziness, tachycardia and, in some patients, syncope, especially during the initial dose-titration period, probably reflecting its α_1 -adrenergic antagonist properties. Syncope was reported in 1% (22/2162) of the patients treated with **SEROQUEL**, compared with 0% (0/206) on placebo and about 0.5% (2/420) on active control drugs. The risk of orthostatic hypotension and syncope may be minimized by limiting the initial dose to 25 mg bid. If hypotension occurs during titration to the target dose, a return to the previous dose in the titration schedule is appropriate. **SEROQUEL** should be used with particular caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease (history of myocardial infarction or ischemic heart disease, heart failure or conduction abnormalities), cerebrovascular disease or conditions which would predispose patients to hypotension (dehydration, hypovolemia and treatment with other antihypertensive medications). **Cataracts:** In chronic dog studies, cataracts was observed in association with quetiapine treatment in chronic dog studies (See **Animal Toxicology**). Lens changes have also been observed in patients during long-term **SEROQUEL** treatment, but a causal relationship to **SEROQUEL** use has not been established. Nevertheless, the possibility of lenticular changes cannot be excluded at this time. Therefore, examination of the lens by methods adequate to detect cataracts (such as slit lamp, exam or other appropriately sensitive methods), is recommended at initiation of treatment or shortly thereafter, and at 6 month intervals during chronic treatment. **Seizures:** During clinical trials, seizures occurred in 0.8% (18/2387) of patients treated with **SEROQUEL** compared to 0.5% (1/206) on placebo and 1% (4/420) on active control drugs. As with other antipsychotics **SEROQUEL** should be used cautiously in patients with a history of seizures or with conditions that potentially lower the seizure threshold, e.g., Alzheimer's dementia. Conditions that lower the seizure threshold may be more prevalent in a population of 65 years or older. **Hypothyroidism:** Clinical trials with **SEROQUEL** demonstrated a dose-related decrease in total and free thyroxine (T4) of approximately 20% at the higher end of the therapeutic dose range and was maximal in the first two to four weeks of treatment and maintained throughout the study. The decrease in free thyroxine levels were generally, these changes were not of clinical significance and TSH was unchanged in most patients, and levels of TBG were unchanged. In nearly all cases, cessation of **SEROQUEL** treatment was associated with a reversal of the effects on total and free T4, irrespective of the duration of treatment. About 0.4% (10/2386) of **SEROQUEL** patients did experience TSH increases. Six of the patients with TSH increases needed replacement thyroid treatment. **Elevations:** In a pool of 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials, **SEROQUEL**-treated patients had increases from baseline in cholesterol and triglyceride of 11% and 17%, respectively, compared to slight decreases for placebo patients. These changes were only weakly related to the increases in weight observed in **SEROQUEL**-treated patients. **Hyperprolactinemia:** Although an elevation of prolactin levels was not demonstrated in clinical trials with **SEROQUEL**, increased prolactin levels were observed in rat studies with this compound, and were associated with an increase in mammary gland neoplasia in rats (See **Carcinogenesis**). Tissue culture experiments indicate that approximately one-third of human breast cancers are prolactin dependent *in vitro*, a factor of potential importance if the prescription of these drugs is contemplated in a patient with previously detected breast cancer. Although disturbances such as galactorrhea, amenorrhea, gynecostenia, and impotence have been reported with prolactin-elevating compounds, the clinical significance of elevated serum prolactin levels is unknown for most patients. Neither clinical studies nor epidemiologic studies conducted to date have shown an association between chronic administration of this class of drugs and tumorigenesis in humans, the available evidence is considered too limited to be conclusive at this time. **Transaminase Elevations:** In clinical trials, transient and reversible elevations of serum transaminase (primarily ALT) have been reported. The proportions of patients with transaminase elevations of > 3 times the upper limits of the normal reference range in a pool of 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials were approximately 6% for **SEROQUEL** compared to 1% for placebo. These hepatic enzyme elevations usually occurred within the first 3 weeks of drug treatment and promptly returned to pre-study values with ongoing treatment with **SEROQUEL**. **Cognitive and Motor Impairment:** Somnolence was a commonly reported adverse event reported in patients treated with **SEROQUEL**, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose-titration. In the 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials, somnolence was reported in 18% of patients on **SEROQUEL** compared to 11% of placebo patients. Since **SEROQUEL** has the potential to impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills, patients should be cautioned about performing activities requiring mental alertness, such as operating a motor vehicle (including automobiles) or operating hazardous machinery until they are reasonably certain that **SEROQUEL** therapy does not affect them adversely. **Praprisim:** One case of praprisim in a patient receiving **SEROQUEL** has been reported prior to market introduction. While a causal relationship to use of **SEROQUEL** has not been established, other drugs with alpha-adrenergic blocking effects have been reported to induce praprisim, and it is possible that **SEROQUEL** may have the capacity to induce praprisim. **Surgical Intervention:** **Body Temperature Regulation:** Although not reported with **SEROQUEL**, disruption of the body's ability to reduce core body temperature has been attributed to antipsychotic agents. Appropriate care is advised when prescribing **SEROQUEL** for patients who will be experiencing conditions which may contribute to an elevation in core body temperature, e.g., exercising strenuously, exposure to extreme heat, receiving radiant medication with anticholinergic properties, and being subject to dehydration. **Dysphagia:** Esophageal dysmotility and aspiration

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have been associated with antipsychotic drug use. Aspiration pneumonia is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in elderly patients, in particular those with advanced Alzheimer's dementia. **SEROQUEL** and other antipsychotic drugs should be used cautiously in patients at risk for aspiration pneumonia. **Suicide:** The possibility of a suicide attempt is inherent in schizophrenia and close supervision of high risk patients should accompany drug therapy. Physicians should be alerted to the possibility of suicidal ideation or suicidal behavior. **SEROQUEL** should be used cautiously in patients with concurrent suicidal ideation or suicidal behavior. **Concomitant Illness:** Clinical experience with **SEROQUEL** in patients with certain concomitant systemic illnesses is limited. **SEROQUEL** has not been evaluated or used to any appreciable extent in patients with a recent history of myocardial infarction or unstable heart disease. Patients at risk for these diseases should be evaluated from a marketing clinical studies. **Benefit of the risk of orthostatic hypotension with **SEROQUEL**, caution should be observed in cardiac patients (See Orthostatic Hypotension). Information for Patients:** Physicians are advised to discuss the following issues with patients for whom they prescribe **SEROQUEL**. **Orthostatic Hypotension:** Patients should be advised of the risk of orthostatic hypotension, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration, and also at times of re-initiating treatment or increases in dose. **Interference with Cognitive and Motor Performance:** Since somnolence was a commonly reported adverse event associated with **SEROQUEL** treatment, patients should be advised of the risk of somnolence, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration. Patients should be cautioned about performing any activity requiring mental alertness, such as operating a motor vehicle (including automobiles) or operating hazardous machinery, until they are reasonably certain that **SEROQUEL** therapy does not affect them adversely. **Pregnancy:** Patients should be advised to notify their physician if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy. **Nursing:** Patients should be advised not to breast feed if they are taking **SEROQUEL**. **Concomitant Medication:** As with other medications, patients should be advised to notify their physicians if they are taking, or plan to take, any prescription or over-the-counter drugs. **Alcohol:** Patients should be advised to avoid concurrent alcoholic beverages while taking **SEROQUEL**. **Heat Exposure and Dehydration:** Patients should be advised regarding appropriate care in avoiding overheating and dehydration. **Laboratory Tests:** No specific laboratory tests are recommended. **Drug Interactions:** The risks of using **SEROQUEL** in combination with other drugs have not been extensively evaluated in systematic studies. Given the primary CNS effects of **SEROQUEL**, caution should be exercised when taking combinations of drugs with CNS effects. **SEROQUEL** potentiated the cognitive and motor effects of alcohol in a clinical trial in subjects with selected psychotic disorders, and alcoholic beverages should be avoided while taking **SEROQUEL**. Because of its potential for inducing hypotension, **SEROQUEL** may enhance the effects of certain antihypertensive agents. **SEROQUEL** may antagonize the effects of levodopa and dopamine agonists. **The Effect of Other Drugs on **SEROQUEL** Pharmacokinetics:** The effect of other drugs on the pharmacokinetics of quetiapine (300 mg bid) was evaluated. **Imipramine:** Administration of multiple daily doses of imipramine (100 mg tid) increased the mean oral clearance of quetiapine by 5-fold. **Increased doses of **SEROQUEL** may be required to maintain control of symptoms of schizophrenia in patients receiving quetiapine and imipramine, or other hepatic enzyme inducers (e.g., carbamazepine, barbiturates, rifampin, glucocorticoids). Caution should be taken if phenytoin is withdrawn and replaced with a non-inducer (e.g., phenobarbital, valproic acid). **Phenylethanolamine (PEA) Inhibitors:** Administration of quetiapine (300 mg bid) by 65%. **Cimetidine:** Administration of multiple daily doses of cimetidine (400 mg tid) for 4 days) resulted in a 20% increase in the mean oral clearance of quetiapine (150 mg tid). **Dose adjustment for quetiapine is not required when it is given with cimetidine. P450 3A Inhibitors:** Coadministration of quetiapine (200 mg once daily for 4 days) a potent inhibitor of cytochrome P450 3A reduced oral clearance of quetiapine (150 mg tid) by 20%. **Concomitant administration in maximum plasma concentration of quetiapine. Caution is indicated when **SEROQUEL** is administered with ketoconazole and other inhibitors of cytochrome P450 3A (e.g., itraconazole, fluconazole, and erythromycin). **Fluoxetine, Imipramine, Haloperidol, and Risperidone:** Coadministration of fluoxetine (60 mg once daily); imipramine (75 mg bid), haloperidol (7.5 mg bid), or risperidone (3 mg bid) with quetiapine (150 mg tid) had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of quetiapine. **Effect of Quetiapine on Other Drugs:** The mean oral clearance of lorazepam (2 mg, single dose) was reduced by 20% in the presence of quetiapine administered as 250 mg tid dosing. **Lithium:** Concomitant administration of quetiapine (250 mg tid) with lithium had no effect on any of the steady-state pharmacokinetic parameters of lithium. **Antihypertensive:** Administration of multiple daily doses of 150 mg/day of oral quetiapine had no effect on the oral clearance of atenolol in patients with chronic disorders had no clinically relevant effect on the clearance of antihypertensive or urinary recovery of antihypertensive effects. These results indicate that quetiapine does not significantly induce hepatic enzymes responsible for cytochrome P450 mediated metabolism of antihypertensive. **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility:** **Carcinogenesis:** Carcinogenicity studies were conducted in C57BL mice and Wistar-Kyoto rats. In carcinogenicity studies, the maximum human dose (800 mg/day) was administered at doses of 0.1, 0.5, 1.5, and 4.5 times the maximum human dose (800 mg/day) on a m/m^2 basis (i.e., 0.1, 0.5, 1.5, and 4.5 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis). There were statistically significant increases in thyroid follicular adenomas in male mice at doses of 250 and 500 mg/day (1.5 and 4.5 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis) and in male rats at a dose of 250 mg/kg (1.5 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis). Mammary gland adenocarcinomas were statistically significantly increased in female rats at all doses tested (25, 75, and 250 mg/kg or 0.3, 0.9, and 3.0 times the maximum recommended human dose on a m/m^2 basis). Thyroid follicular cell adenomas may have resulted from chronic stimulation of the thyroid gland by thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) resulting from enhanced metabolism and clearance of thyroxine by rodents. **Changes in TSH, thyroxine, and thyroxine clearance consistent with this mechanism were observed in subchronic toxicity studies in rat and mouse and in a 1-year toxicity study in rat; however, the results of these studies were not definitive. The relevance of the increases in thyroid follicular cell adenomas to human risk, through whatever mechanism, is unknown. Antipsychotic drugs have been shown to chronically elevate prolactin levels in assays in cultured human lymphocytes or in the *in vitro* micronucleus assay in rats. **Impairment of Fertility:** Quetiapine decreased mating and fertility in male Sprague-Dawley rats at oral doses of 50 and 150 mg/kg or 0.6 and 1.8 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. Drug-related effects included increases in interval to mate and in the number of matings required for successful impregnation. These effects continued to be observed at 150 mg/kg even after a two-week period without treatment. The no-effect dose for impaired mating and fertility in male rats was 25 mg/kg or 0.3 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. Quetiapine adversely affected mating and fertility in female Sprague-Dawley rats at an oral dose of 50 mg/kg, or 0.6 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. Drug-related effects included decreases in matings and in matings resulting in pregnancy, and an increase in the number of implantations. Fetal body weight was reduced in rat fetuses at doses of 10 and 50 mg/kg, or 0.1 and 0.6 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. The no-effect dose in female rats was 1 mg/kg, or 0.01 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. **Pregnancy:** **Pregnancy Category C:** The teratogenic potential of quetiapine was studied in Wistar rats and Dutch Belted rabbits dosed during the period of organogenesis. No evidence of a teratogenic effect was detected in either species at oral doses of 100 mg/kg (1.2 and 2.4 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis) or rabbits at 25 to 100 mg/kg (0.6 to 2.4 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis). There was, however, evidence of embryo/fetal toxicity. Delays in skeletal ossification were detected in rat fetuses at doses of 50 and 200 mg/kg (0.6 and 2.4 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis) and in rabbits at 50 and 100 mg/kg (1.2 and 2.4 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis). Fetal body weight was reduced in rat fetuses at doses of 10 and 50 mg/kg (0.1 and 0.6 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis) for both species. There was an increased incidence of a minor soft tissue anomaly (carpal/tarsal flexure) in rabbit fetuses at a dose of 100 mg/kg (2.4 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis). Evidence of maternal toxicity (i.e., decreases in body weight gain and/or death) was observed at the high dose in the rat study on all animals in the pregnancy study. In a pre-natal progeny study of 200 mg/kg (2.4 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis) in rats, no drug-related effects were observed at doses of 1, 10, and 20 mg/kg or 0.01, 0.1, and 0.24 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. However, in a preliminary perinatal study, there were increases in fetal and pup death, and decreases in mean litter weight at 150 mg/kg or 3.0 times the maximum human dose on a m/m^2 basis. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women on **SEROQUEL**. Therefore, the potential benefits must be weighed against the potential risks to the fetus. **Labor and Delivery:** The effect of **SEROQUEL** on labor and delivery in humans is unknown.******

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Nursing Mothers: **SEROQUEL** was excreted in milk of treated animals during lactation. It is not known if **SEROQUEL** is excreted in human milk. It is recommended that women receiving **SEROQUEL** should not breast feed. **Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness of **SEROQUEL** in pediatric patients have not been established. **Geriatric Use:** Of the approximately 2400 patients in clinical studies with **SEROQUEL**, 8% (190) were 65 years of age or older. In general, there was no indication of any differential tolerability of **SEROQUEL** in the elderly compared to younger adults. Nevertheless, the presence of factors that might decrease pharmacokinetic clearance, increase the pharmacodynamic response to **SEROQUEL**, or cause poorer tolerance or orthostasis, should lead to consideration of a lower starting dose, slower titration, and careful monitoring during the initial dosing period in the elderly. The mean plasma clearance of **SEROQUEL** was reduced by 30% to 50% in elderly patients when compared to younger patients.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Events Occurring at an Incidence of 1% or More Among **SEROQUEL Treated Patients in Short-Term, Placebo-Controlled Trials:** The most commonly observed adverse events associated with the use of **SEROQUEL** (incidence of 5% or greater) and observed at a rate on **SEROQUEL** (at least two times that of placebo were dizziness (10%), postural hypotension (7%), dry mouth (7%), and dyspepsia (6%). The following treatment-emergent adverse experiences occurred at an incidence rate of 1% or more, and were at least as frequent among **SEROQUEL** treated patients, treated at doses of 75 mg/day or greater than among placebo treated patients in 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials.

Body as a Whole: Headache, Asthenia, Abdominal pain, Back pain, Fever, Nervous System: Somnolence, Dizziness, Headache, Fatigue, Vertigo, Insomnia, Migraine, Agitation, Anxiety, Nervousness, Akathisia, Hypertonia, Tremor, Depression, Paresthesia, Pharyngitis, Dry skin, Amblyopia and urinary tract infection. Explorations for interactions on the basis of gender, age, and race did not reveal any clinically meaningful differences in the adverse event occurrence on the basis of these demographic factors. **Dose Dependency of Adverse Events in Short-Term, Placebo-Controlled Trials Dose-Related Adverse Events:** Spontaneously elicited adverse event data from a study comparing five fixed doses of **SEROQUEL** (75 mg, 150 mg, 300 mg, 600 mg, and 750 mg/day) to placebo were explored for dose-relatedness of adverse events. Logistic regression analyses revealed a positive dose-response ($p < 0.05$) for the following adverse events: dyspepsia, abdominal pain, and weight gain. **Extrapyramidal Symptoms:** Data from one 6-week clinical trial comparing **SEROQUEL** (150, 300, 600, and 750 mg/day) to placebo revealed no differences in the lack of treatment-emergent extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) and dose-relatedness for EPS associated with **SEROQUEL** treatment. Three methods were used to measure EPS: (1) Simpson-Angus total score (mean change from baseline) which evaluates parkinsonism and akathisia, (2) incidence of spontaneous complaints of EPS (akathisia, akinesia, cogwheel rigidity, extrapyramidal syndrome, hypertonia, hypokinesia, parkinsonism, dystonia, dyskinesia, rigidity, tremor, and chorea), and (3) use of emergent EPS. In three additional placebo-controlled clinical trials using variable doses of **SEROQUEL**, there were no differences between the **SEROQUEL** and placebo treatment groups in the incidence of EPS, as assessed by Simpson-Angus total scores, spontaneous complaints of EPS and the use of concomitant anticholinergic medications to treat EPS. **Vital Sign Changes:** **SEROQUEL** is associated with orthostatic hypotension. Spontaneous orthostatic hypotension was reported in patients meeting a weight gain criterion of 27% of body weight were compared in a pool of four 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled clinical trials, revealing a statistically significantly greater incidence of weight gain for **SEROQUEL** (23%) compared to placebo (6%). **Laboratory Changes:** An assessment of the premarketing experience for **SEROQUEL** suggested that it is associated with asymptomatic increases in SGPT and increases in both total and free thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). Explorations of biological parameters in short-term, placebo-controlled trials revealed no clinically important differences between **SEROQUEL** and placebo. **ECG Changes:** Between group comparisons for pooled placebo-controlled trials revealed no statistically significant **SEROQUEL**/placebo differences in the proportions of patients experiencing potentially important changes in ECG parameters, including QT, QTc, and PR intervals. Explorations of ECG parameters in patients meeting the criteria for abnormal ECGs occurred in four 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled clinical trials revealing a 1% (4/399) incidence for **SEROQUEL** compared to 0.6% (1/156) incidence for placebo. **SEROQUEL** use was associated with a mean increase in heart rate, assessed by ECG, of 7 beats per minute compared to a mean increase of 1 beat per minute among placebo patients. This slight tendency to tachycardia may be related to **SEROQUEL**'s potential for inducing orthostatic hypotension. **Other Adverse Events Observed During the Pre-Marketing Evaluation of **SEROQUEL**:** Following is a list of COSTART terms that reflect treatment-emergent adverse events as defined in the introduction to the ADVERSE REACTIONS section reported by patients treated with **SEROQUEL** at multiple doses \geq 75 mg/day during any phase of a trial within the premarketing database of approximately 2200 patients. All reported events are included except those already listed in this section or already listed in the tabulated results from placebo-controlled trials appear in this section. Infrequent adverse events are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1000 patients; rare events are those occurring in fewer than 1/1000 patients. **Nervous System:** **Frequent:** hypotonia, dysarthria; **Infrequent:** abnormal dreams, dyskinesia, thinking abnormal, tardive dyskinesia, vertigo, involuntary movements, confusion, amnesia, psychosis, hallucinations, hyperkinesia, libido increased, urinary retention, incontinence, paranoid reaction, abnormal gait, myoclonus, delirium, ataxia, asthenia, dizziness, headache, tremor, rigidity, chorea, dyskinesia, hemiplegia; **Rare:** aphasia, buccopharyngeal syndrome, choreoathetosis, delirium, emotional lability, euphoria, libido decreased, neuralgia, stuttering, subdural hematoma. **Body as a Whole:** **Frequent:** flu syndrome; **Infrequent:** neck pain, pelvic pain, suicide attempt, malaise, photosensitivity reaction, chills, face edema, moniliasis; **Rare:** abdomen enlarged, **Digestive System:** **Frequent:** anorexia, **Infrequent:** increased salivation, increased appetite, gamma glutamyl transpeptidase increased, proctitis, dysphagia, flatulence, gastroenteritis, gastritis, hemorrhoids, stomatitis, strich, tooth caries, fecal incontinence, gastroesophageal reflux, gum hemorrhage, mouth ulceration, rectal hemorrhage, tongue edema; **Rare:** glossitis, hematemesis, intestinal obstruction, melena, pancreatitis. **Cardiovascular System:** **Frequent:** palpitation; **Infrequent:** vasodilation, QT interval prolonged, migraine, bradycardia, cerebral ischemia, irregular pulse, T wave abnormality, bundle branch block, cerebrovascular accident, deep thrombophlebitis, T wave inversion; **Rare:** angina pectoris, atrial fibrillation, AV block first degree, congestive heart failure, ST elevated, thrombophlebitis, T wave flattening, ST abnormality, increased QRS duration. **Respiratory System:** **Frequent:** pharyngitis, rhinitis, cough increased, dyspnea; **Infrequent:** pneumonia, epistaxis, asthma; **Rare:** hiccup, hyperinflation. **Metabolic and Nutritional System:** **Frequent:** peripheral edema; **Infrequent:** weight loss, alkaline phosphatase increased, hyperkalemia, alcohol intolerance, dehydration, hyperkalemia, creatinine increased, hypoglycemia; **Rare:** glycosuria, goad, hand edema, hypokalemia, water intoxication. **Skin and Appendages System:** **Frequent:** sweating; **Infrequent:** pruritus, acne, eczema, contact dermatitis, maculopapular rash, seborrhea, skin ulcer; **Rare:** exfoliative dermatitis, psoriasis, skin discoloration. **Urogenital System:** **Infrequent:** dysmenorrhea, vaginitis, urinary incontinence, metrorrhagia, impotence, dysuria, vaginal moniliasis, abnormal ejaculation, cystitis, urinary frequency, amenorrhea, female lactation, leukorrhea, vaginal hemorrhage, vulvovaginitis, orchitis; **Rare:** gynecostasia, nocturia, polyuria, acute kidney failure. **Special Senses:** **Infrequent:** conjunctivitis, abnormal vision, dry eyes, tinnitus, taste perversion, blepharitis, eye pain; **Rare:** abnormality of accommodation, deafness, glaucoma. **Musculoskeletal System:** **Frequent:** muscle pain, muscle weakness, muscle cramps, back pain, leg cramps, bone pain. **Hemic and Lymphatic System:** **Frequent:** leukopenia; **Infrequent:** leukocytosis, anemia, eosinophilia, eosinophilia, hypochromic anemia, lymphadenopathy, cyanosis; **Rare:** hemolysis, thrombocytopenia. **Endocrine System:** **Infrequent:** hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus; **Rare:** hypothyroidism. *adjusted for gender. **Post-Marketing Experience:** Adverse events since market introduction which were temporally related to **SEROQUEL** therapy include the following: rarely leukopenia/neutropenia. In a patient receiving a low white cell count consider discontinuation of therapy. Possible risk factors for leukopenia/neutropenia include pre-existing low white cell count and history of drug induced leukopenia/neutropenia. **DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

Controlled Substance Class: **SEROQUEL** is not a controlled substance.

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- Over 5 years of clinical experience and 14.2 million prescriptions⁹

The most common adverse events associated with the use of SEROQUEL are dizziness (10%), postural hypotension (7%), dry mouth (7%), and dyspepsia (6%). The majority of adverse events are mild or moderate. In 3- to 6-week, placebo-controlled trials, the incidence of somnolence was 18% with SEROQUEL vs 11% with placebo.

As with all antipsychotic medications, prescribing should be consistent with the need to minimize the risk of tardive dyskinesia, seizures, and orthostatic hypotension.

As with all antipsychotic medications, a rare condition referred to as neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) has been reported.

*Extrapyramidal symptoms.

References: 1. Small JG, Hirsch SR, Arvanitis LA, et al, and the SEROQUEL Study Group. Quetiapine in patients with schizophrenia: a high- and low-dose double-blind comparison with placebo. *Arch Gen Psychiatry*. 1997;54:549-557. 2. Arvanitis LA, Miller BG, and the SEROQUEL Trial 13 Study Group. Multiple fixed doses of "Seroquel" (quetiapine) in patients with acute exacerbation of schizophrenia: a comparison with haloperidol and placebo. *Biol Psychiatry*. 1997;42:233-246. 3. Borison RL, Arvanitis LA, Miller BG and the U.S. SEROQUEL Study Group. ICI 204.636, an atypical antipsychotic: efficacy and safety in a multicenter, placebo-controlled trial in patients with schizophrenia. *J Clin Psychopharmacol*. 1996;16:158-169. 4. Data on file, Study S91, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Wilmington, Delaware. 5. SEROQUEL™ (quetiapine fumarate) Prescribing Information, Rev 1/01, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Wilmington, Delaware. 6. Brecher M, Rak IW, Melvin K, et al. The long-term effect of quetiapine (Seroquel™) monotherapy on weight in patients with schizophrenia. *Int J Psych Clin Pract*. 2000;4:287-291. 7. Data on file, DA-SER-02, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Wilmington, Delaware. 8. NPA Plus™ data for dispensed TRXs for the top 3 atypicals (2002 vs 2001). Atypical Market, IMS America, Ltd., 2002. 9. Data on file, DA-SER-10, AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP, Wilmington, Delaware.

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