

Your doctor/nurse will discuss with you additional information about the individual antipsychotic medicines prescribed for you.

For further information please see the contact details below:

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Resource Centre, St Mary's Hospital
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Berrywood Hospital, Northampton
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If you require this leaflet in other formats or languages please contact PALS: 0800 917 8504

এই লফিলটেট যদি আপনার অন্য কোনো ফর্ম্যাটে বা ভাষায় প্রয়োজন হয়, তবে অনুগ্রহ করে

0800 917 8504 নম্বরে পালস এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন

Jeżeli siał skrajutę norite gauti kitu formatu ar kalba, kreipkitę j PALS: 0800 917 8504

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku, prosimy o kontakt z PALS pod numerem telefonu 0800 917 8504.

Dacă aveți nevoie de acest prospect în alte formate sau limbi, vă rugăm să contactați PALS: 0800 917 8504

Если Вы хотели бы получить данную брошюру на другом языке или в другом формате, просим обращаться в PALS (Информационная служба для пациентов) по 0800 917 8504.

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USE OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICINES IN TREATING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA



 01604 682682

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WHAT ARE ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICINES USED FOR?

Antipsychotic medicines are mainly used to treat mental health conditions such as schizophrenia agitation, severe anxiety, mania and violent or dangerously impulsive behaviour.

These medications are also prescribed to deal with behavioural and psychological difficulties (agitation, aggression, wandering, shouting, repeated questioning and sleep disturbance) in dementia. Antipsychotics are used in behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD) only where non medicinal treatments have failed or are inappropriate.



HOW DO ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICINES WORK?

Antipsychotics work by increasing or reducing the effects of natural chemicals (called neurotransmitters) in the brain, including dopamine, serotonin, noradrenaline and acetylcholine.

These chemicals normally take control of numerous aspects of behaviour like mood and emotions, control of sleeping and wakefulness and control of appetite.



SIDE EFFECTS OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS

As with all medicines, antipsychotics can produce side effects in some people. The most common include over sedation, movement disorders that may resemble Parkinson's disease (rigidity, tremor and problems with walking), dry mouth, blurred vision and constipation, feelings of dizziness or light headedness and weight gain.

Antipsychotic medicines may cause other side effects - more detailed information is available for individual drugs.

There is an increased risk of stroke in elderly people with dementia who are treated with antipsychotic medication long term. To minimise this risk, these medicines are reviewed regularly and are used for the shortest time necessary.