

What is this medicine for?

Quetiapine is used to treat and prevent the return of symptoms of psychosis (such as hearing or seeing things which are actually not present, confused or unreal thoughts, suspiciousness, uncontrolled anger).

It can also be used to treat manic episodes (such as elated mood, irritability or increased activity and energy) and depressive episodes in bipolar disorder.

Quetiapine may be used for other conditions, check with your doctor.

Before using this medicine:

Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had Alzheimer's disease; heart, thyroid, liver or kidney disease; low blood pressure, stroke; diabetes, high cholesterol, seizures (fits), breast cancer or drug allergies.

FOR WOMEN: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.

How to use this medicine?

Follow the directions on your medicine label and take the medicine exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

Continue to take this medicine regularly as prescribed even if you feel well. Do not stop taking it without talking to your doctor otherwise your condition may worsen very quickly.

Quetiapine must be taken regularly for a few weeks before its full effect is felt.

If you are taking Quetiapine XR (extended-release) tablet, swallow the tablet whole, do not split, crush or chew.

Precautions while taking this medicine:

- Quetiapine may make you drowsy or less alert. Do not drive or operate machinery if affected. Avoid alcoholic drink.
- Quetiapine may cause low blood pressure and/or dizziness when you stand up, especially when you first start taking it. Getting up slowly from sitting or lying down position may help to lessen the dizziness.
- Quetiapine may sometimes worsen blood glucose control and cholesterol levels. Maintain regular check-ups with your doctor.
- Quetiapine may interfere with your body's ability to cool down (make you sweat less), causing your body temperature to increase. Use extra care not to become overheated during strenuous exercise or hot weather.
- When you take Quetiapine with some other medicines, it may affect how they work. Be sure that you tell all doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other health care providers who treat you about all medicines and natural remedies you are taking.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is more than half way between the doses, skip the missed dose and take your medicine at the usual time.

Do not take two doses at the same time to make up for a missed one.

Possible Side Effects:

Like all medications, this medication may also cause some POSSIBLE side effects in some people. Everyone responds differently to medications; so not everyone experiences any or all of them.

COMMON (Generally affect up to 10% of patients)

Most of these side effects below will get better or go away completely with continued medication taking as your body gets used to this medication. Contact your doctor or pharmacist should they become too bothersome to you.

- ~ Drowsiness
- ~ Dizziness or light-headedness
- ~ Constipation
- ~ Dry mouth
- ~ Stomach discomfort or indigestion
- ~ Weight gain (exercise regularly and avoid excessive intake of high fat food)
- ~ Headache

FOR URGENT ATTENTION

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following:

- ~ Allergic reaction: Skin rash or itching, difficulty in breathing, swelling in the face, lips or other parts of the body, or chest pain
- ~ Fast or irregular heartbeat
- ~ Fainting
- ~ High fever
- ~ Muscle stiffness
- ~ Confusion
- ~ Increased sweating
- ~ Difficulty in speaking or swallowing
- ~ Trembling or shaking of hands and fingers
- ~ Muscle spasms, twitching or uncontrollable face, tongue or jaw movements
- ~ Restlessness or need to keep moving constantly
- ~ Seizures (fits)
- ~ Problems with eyesight

If you have any concerns about your medications or if you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, please consult with your doctor or pharmacist.

Where should I store the medicine?

Store this medicine at room temperature, away from direct light, heat and moisture (not in the bathroom) and out of reach of children. Throw away any medication that is expired or no longer needed.

Do not share the medicine with other people.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information or if you have any questions.

Institute of Mental Health

Pharmacy Department

10 Buangkok View
Singapore 539747

For medication enquiries: (during office hours)

IMH Clinic B/ Sayang Wellness Pharmacy: 63892077

IMH Clinic C (NAMS) Pharmacy: 63893666

Community Wellness Centre Pharmacy: 64715797

Geylang Behavioural Medicine Pharmacy: 67461724

Child Guidance Clinic (HPB) Pharmacy: 64353807

Child Guidance (Sunrise Wing) Pharmacy: 63892410

Email: enquiry@imh.com.sg



Patient Information Leaflet on

QUETIAPINE