



## **PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

### **MEDICINE TO TREAT MENTAL DISORDERS**

#### **Clozapine**

#### **ABOUT** your medicine

Clozapine is used to treat the symptoms of mental disorders.

#### **HOW** does my medicine work?

The medicine works by reducing transmission of certain neurotransmitters in the brain. By doing so, it helps to calm down, to quieten and to control symptoms of mental illnesses such as thought disorder, hallucinations, delusions, reduced ability to express emotion, lack of energy, etc.

#### **HOW** should I take the medicine?

Your doctor will tell you how much of the medicine to take and how often. Your dose may need to be changed several times initially in order to find out the dose that works best for you. Do not take more medicine or take it more often than your doctor tells you to.

Take your medicine at the same time each day. The medicine can be taken with or without food. Do not stop taking the medicine suddenly without asking your doctor. This will help to prevent the illness from returning suddenly.

#### What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double the dose.

If for any reason you stop taking clozapine for more than 2 days, do not start back on the same dose. Ask your doctor what dose you should take.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

**1. Fever, sore throat**

Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you develop unusual tiredness or weakness, fever, sore throat, or other symptoms of infection. These can be symptoms of a very serious blood problem.

**2. Irregular heart beat**

Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you develop this side effect.

**3. Drowsiness and convulsions**

Clozapine may cause drowsiness or convulsions (seizures). Do not drive or operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous while you are taking this medicine.

**4. Fainting**

Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting may occur, especially when you get up from a lying or sitting position. Getting up slowly may help. If this problem continues or gets worse, check with your doctor.

**5. Other side effects, e.g. constipation, dry mouth or excess salivation**

These side effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. However, check with your doctor if any of the side effects continue or are bothersome.

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Before taking your medicine, inform your doctor if:

- You are allergic to this medicine or any other medicine
- You are currently taking any other medicines
- You have any medical conditions such as low blood pressure, any heart conditions (especially irregular heart beat), Parkinson's disease, difficulty in urinating or any prostate enlargement, glaucoma, any blood diseases, **bone marrow disorder, history of colonic disease or previous bowel surgery**, history of epilepsy and kidney or liver problem
- You are pregnant or planning to get pregnant or are breastfeeding

It is important that you have your blood tests done when they are scheduled, and that your doctor checks your progress at regular visits. Clozapine can cause some very serious blood problems that you may not be able to feel or see.

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store in a cool, dry place. Protect from moisture, heat and direct sunlight.

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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