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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is fluphenazine?

First generation 'typical' antipsychotics such as fluphenazine are an older class of antipsychotic than second generation 'atypical' antipsychotics. They are used primarily to treat positive symptoms including the experiences of perceptual abnormalities (hallucinations) and fixed, false, irrational beliefs (delusions). First generation antipsychotics may cause side effects which can differ depending on which antipsychotic is being administered and on individual differences in reaction to the drug. Reactions may include dyskinesias such as repetitive, involuntary, and purposeless body or facial movements, Parkinsonism (cogwheel muscle rigidity, pill-rolling tremor and reduced or slowed movements), akathisia (motor restlessness, especially in the legs, and resembling agitation) and dystonias such as muscle contractions causing unusual twisting of parts of the body, most often in the neck. These effects are caused by the dopamine receptor antagonist action of these drugs.

What is the evidence for fluphenazine?

Compared to placebo, moderate quality evidence suggests less risk of relapse with oral fluphenazine, however oral fluphenazine may result in drowsiness, akathisia and rigidity. Moderate to high quality evidence suggests no differences in acceptability or response to treatment between oral fluphenazine and low-potency first generation antipsychotics. Moderate to low quality evidence suggests no differences in relapse rates between fluphenazine decanoate and first or second generation antipsychotics. There is less risk of movement disorders with fluphenazine decanoate than with pimozide or fluphenazine hydrochloride, but more risk of akathisia, dystonia, loss of associated movement, rigor, and tremor with oral fluphenazine than with low-potency first generation antipsychotics. There is greater risk of dizziness, drowsiness, sedation, dry mouth, nausea, and vomiting with low-potency first generation antipsychotics than with oral fluphenazine.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia.



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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.