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Beta blocker
Medication
100 mg
For oral use

20
tablets



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

September 2020

What are beta blockers?

Beta blockers can be prescribed in addition to standard antipsychotic regimes in order to target some side effects of these medications, including extrapyramidal symptoms such as akathisia (a type of restlessness, a common and early-onset side effect of many neuroleptics). Beta blockers are adrenergic beta receptor antagonists, inhibiting the action of neurotransmitters adrenaline/epinephrine and noradrenaline/norepinephrine on beta-receptors, ultimately influencing brain regions that control functions such as movement. Beta blockers have also been used to reduce the physical symptoms of anxiety in schizophrenia (for example, pounding heart, clammy hands, sweating), and have also been suggested to reduce aggression.

What is the evidence for beta blockers?

Moderate quality evidence suggests norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors atomoxetine and reboxetine may reduce depressive symptoms, but not positive or negative symptoms. Reboxetine may result in more weight loss than placebo. Lower quality evidence suggests no benefit of beta blockers in general for improving extrapyramidal symptoms such as akathisia, or for reducing aggression.

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.