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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is hypersalivation?

Antipsychotic medications such as clozapine and olanzapine, among others, may induce excessive (hyper) salivation, which can be uncomfortable and embarrassing as well as increasing the risk of aspiration pneumonia. Various pharmacological approaches have been used to try and alleviate this problem. Adjunctive medications prescribed to treat such side effects may contribute to increasing adherence to antipsychotic medications, which reduces the risk of psychotic relapse.

What is the evidence for treatments for hypersalivation?

Moderate quality evidence finds the antimuscarinic propantheline can reduce hypersalivation, but it causes more constipation than placebo. The antihistamine diphenhydramine can also reduce hypersalivation, with no increases in rates of constipation when compared to placebo. The antihistamine chlorpheniramine and benzamide derivatives both reduce hypersalivation, but adverse effects were not reported.

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests traditional Chinese medicine (SuoQuan Wan) and rice bran oil derivative (oryzanolium) may be more effective than doxepin (antimuscarinic) for reducing clozapine-induced hypersalivation and may cause less constipation.

For more information see the technical table



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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.

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.