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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

October 2020

What is constipation?

A supplementary, or adjunctive treatment is administered in conjunction with a patient's ongoing antipsychotic therapy. Constipation is a common side effect of antipsychotic medications, particularly clozapine, and occurs when bowel movements are infrequent and difficult to pass. Adjunct medications prescribed to treat side effects such as constipation may contribute to increasing adherence to antipsychotics which can reduce the risk of psychotic relapse.

What is the evidence for treatments for antipsychotic-induced constipation?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests tuina massage or acupuncture are more effective than glycerol laxative suppository, and mannitol is more effective than rhubarb soda or phenolphthalein for relief of constipation caused by antipsychotics.

There were no other randomised controlled trials identified that assessed other forms of laxatives in people taking antipsychotics.

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.