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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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Why switch medications?

Achieving an optimum pharmacological response may require switching medications. Reasons for switching include individual differences in response, sensitivity to side effects, and peculiarities of schizophrenia such as changes in symptoms over time.

What is the evidence for switching medications?

Moderate to high quality evidence from mirror-image studies finds fewer hospitalisations after switching from oral to long-acting injectable antipsychotics.

Moderate to high quality evidence finds no differences in symptoms between rapid or slow initiation while switching from one antipsychotic to another in stable patients. However, rapid initiation resulted in more all-cause discontinuation and more nausea.

High quality evidence finds no differences in symptoms between immediate, gradual or delaying discontinuation while switching antipsychotic medications. When switching to olanzapine, there was less insomnia with gradual discontinuation. When switching to ziprasidone, there were less parkinsonism symptoms with gradual discontinuation, but more somnolence.

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.



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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.