



# NeuRA

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POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER LIBRARY



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## POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER Factsheet

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### What are antipsychotics?

While most pharmacological guidelines suggest first-line pharmacotherapy should include selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor antidepressants, some people with PTSD do not adequately respond to this treatment. There are also high prevalence rates of PTSD symptoms in people with psychosis, particularly in hospitalised patients. Antipsychotics are effective for the symptoms of psychosis and have also been investigated in people with a primary diagnosis of PTSD.

### What is the evidence on antipsychotics for PTSD?

Moderate to high quality evidence found a small improvement in PTSD symptoms with risperidone or olanzapine than with placebo. Olanzapine was also more effective for symptom improvement than the antidepressant citalopram.

There were no significant differences between antipsychotics and placebo in treatment dropouts due to adverse events, however there was more weight gain with 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 PTSD and its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.*

### HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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