

Quetiapine

Pronunciation: KWET eye ah peen

Brand: Seroquel

What is the most important information I should know about quetiapine?



- Call your doctor immediately or seek medical attention if you experience uncontrollable movements of the mouth, tongue, cheeks, jaw, arms, or legs.



- Call your doctor immediately or seek medical attention if you experience fever, sweating, severe muscle stiffness (rigidity), confusion, fast or irregular heart beats. These could be symptoms of a potentially fatal side effect called Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS).



- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Quetiapine may cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.
- Dizziness may be more likely to occur when you rise from a sitting or lying position. Rise slowly to prevent dizziness and a possible fall.



- Avoid alcohol during treatment with quetiapine. Alcohol may increase drowsiness and dizziness caused by quetiapine.
- Use caution in hot weather and during exercise to avoid becoming overheated during treatment. It is easy to become dangerously dehydrated while taking quetiapine.

What is quetiapine?

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• Quetiapine is an antipsychotic medication. It works by changing the actions of chemicals in the brain.

• Quetiapine is used to treat the symptoms of psychotic conditions, including hallucinations, delusions, and confusion.

• Quetiapine may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking quetiapine?

- Before taking quetiapine, tell your doctor if you have
 - liver disease or other problems with your liver;
 - heart disease or other heart problems such as high blood pressure, a previous heart attack, or irregular heartbeats;

-high levels of cholesterol or triglycerides (types of fat) in your blood;

- Alzheimer's disease;
- seizures or epilepsy; or
- hypothyroidism.

- You may not be able to take quetiapine, or you may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment if you have any of the conditions listed above.



- Quetiapine is in the FDA pregnancy category C. This means that it is not known whether quetiapine will harm an unborn baby. Do not take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant or could become pregnant during treatment.



- It is also not known whether quetiapine passes into breast milk. Do not take quetiapine without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

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How should I take quetiapine?

- Take quetiapine exactly as directed by your doctor. If you do not understand these directions, ask your pharmacist, nurse, or doctor to explain them to you



- Take each dose with a full glass of water.
- Quetiapine can be taken with or without food.
- Quetiapine is usually taken several times a day. Follow your doctor's instructions.



- Do not stop taking quetiapine without first talking to your doctor. It may be several weeks before you begin to feel better, and stopping the medication may lead to a return of symptoms.



- Store quetiapine at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

What happens if I miss a dose?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next regularly scheduled dose, skip the missed dose and take only the next regularly scheduled dose. **Do not** take a double dose of this medication.

What happens if I overdose?



- Seek emergency medical attention.
- Symptoms of a quetiapine overdose include drowsiness, increased heart rate, and low blood pressure.

What should I avoid while taking quetiapine?

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- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. Quetiapine may cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.

- Dizziness may be more likely to occur when you rise from a sitting or lying position. Rise slowly to prevent dizziness and a possible fall.



- Avoid alcohol during treatment with quetiapine. Alcohol may increase drowsiness and dizziness caused by quetiapine.

- Use caution in hot weather and during exercise to avoid becoming overheated during treatment. It is easy to become dangerously dehydrated while taking quetiapine.

What are the possible side effects of quetiapine?



- Stop taking quetiapine and seek emergency medical attention if you experience an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of your throat; swelling of your lips, tongue, or face; or hives) to quetiapine.



- Call your doctor immediately or seek medical attention if you experience uncontrollable movements of the mouth, tongue, cheeks, jaw, arms, or legs.



- Call your doctor immediately or seek medical attention if you experience fever, sweating, severe muscle stiffness (rigidity), confusion, fast or irregular heart beats. These could be symptoms of a potentially fatal side effect called Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS).

- Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take quetiapine and talk to your doctor if you experience

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- dizziness or drowsiness;
 - agitation;
 - constipation;
 - dry mouth; or
 - weight gain.
- Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What other drugs will affect quetiapine?

- Before taking quetiapine, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - carbamazepine (Tegretol);
 - phenytoin (Dilantin);
 - phenobarbital (Luminal, Solfoton);
 - rifampin (Rifadin);
 - ketoconazole (Nizoral);
 - itraconazole (Sporanox);
 - fluconazole (Diflucan);
 - erythromycin (Ery-Tab, E-Mycin, E.E.S., others);
 - a steroid such as prednisone (Deltasone, Orasone), dexamethasone (Decadron), methylprednisolone (Medrol), prednisolone (Prelone, Pediapred, others), or cortisone (Cortef, others);

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- a medication to treat high blood pressure or another heart condition; or
 - a medication to treat Parkinson's disease including levodopa (Sinemet, Larodopa, Dopar), selegiline (Eldepryl), pramipexole (Mirapex), ropinirole (Requip), and others.
- You may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment if you are taking any of the medicines listed above.
 - Quetiapine may also increase the effects of drugs that cause drowsiness, including antidepressants, alcohol, antihistamines, sedatives (used to treat insomnia), pain relievers, anxiety medicines, muscle relaxants, and many others. Tell your doctor about all medicines that you are taking and do not take any medicine without first talking to your doctor.
 - Drugs other than those listed here may also interact with quetiapine. Talk to your doctor and pharmacist before taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicines.

Where can I get more information?

- Your pharmacist has more information about quetiapine written for health professionals that you may read.