

SEROQUEL XR: QUESTIONS ABOUT TREATMENT

Bipolar Disorder is a condition that can potentially impact your life nearly every day. And during an episode of bipolar depression each day can seem overwhelming and almost unbearable. Work with your doctor to manage your bipolar depression. SEROQUEL XR is not a cure, but it may help you manage the symptoms of bipolar depression.

Asking your doctor questions may help you better understand your condition and overall treatment plan. These questions are designed to make it easier for you to prepare for your next appointment.

- ∴ **Can you explain bipolar depression and its symptoms?**
- ∴ **What things should I consider when starting SEROQUEL XR?**
- ∴ **What are the side effects associated with SEROQUEL XR?**
- ∴ **When should SEROQUEL XR be taken and how often?**
- ∴ **In addition to medication, what are other parts of my treatment plan?**
- ∴ **How important is maintaining a routine in getting the most out of my treatment plan?**
- ∴ **What role does stress play in bipolar depression?**
- ∴ **Do diet and exercise have an impact on my condition?**
- ∴ **Should I tell those around me about my condition?**
- ∴ **I need a little extra help coping with my condition. Where can I turn for support?**
- ∴ **Is SEROQUEL XR approved for maintenance therapy?**
- ∴ **I can't afford my medication. Are there programs available that can help?**
- ∴ **Are there any programs available with free information, resources and practical advice for people with bipolar disorder?**

Important Safety Information for SEROQUEL XR

Elderly patients with dementia-related psychosis (having lost touch with reality due to confusion and memory loss) treated with this type of medicine are at an increased risk of death, compared to placebo (sugar pill). SEROQUEL XR is not approved for treating these patients.


Antidepressants have increased the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions in some children, teenagers, and young adults. Patients of all ages starting treatment should be watched closely for worsening of depression, suicidal thoughts or actions, unusual changes in behavior, agitation, and irritability. Families and caregivers should watch patients daily and report these symptoms immediately to the physician. SEROQUEL XR is not approved for patients under the age of 18 years.

Important Safety Information and Indications continues on page 2.

Please print the [Prescribing Information](#) , including **Boxed Warnings and Medication Guide**, and discuss it with your health care provider.

Important Safety Information and Indications for SEROQUEL XR (continued)

- High blood sugar and diabetes have been reported with SEROQUEL XR and medicines like it. If you have diabetes or risk factors such as obesity or a family history of diabetes, ask your doctor about checking your blood sugar before starting SEROQUEL XR and regularly throughout treatment. If you develop symptoms of high blood sugar or diabetes, such as excessive thirst or hunger, increased urination, or weakness, contact your doctor. Complications from diabetes can be serious and even life threatening
- Increases in cholesterol and triglycerides, and weight gain have been reported with SEROQUEL XR
- A rare, but potentially fatal, side effect reported with SEROQUEL XR and medicines like it is neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS). Tell your doctor if you have very high fever; rigid muscles; shaking; confusion; sweating; changes in pulse, heart rate, or blood pressure; or muscle pain and weakness because treatment should be stopped if you have NMS
- Another serious side effect reported with SEROQUEL XR and medicines like it is tardive dyskinesia (TD)—uncontrollable movements of the face, tongue, or other parts of the body. TD may become permanent, and the risk of TD is believed to increase as the length of time on and the amount of these medications increase. While TD can develop in patients taking low doses for short periods, this is much less common. There is no known treatment for TD, but it may go away partially or completely if treatment is stopped
- Before starting treatment, tell your doctor if you have high prolactin levels or have a history of, or are at risk for, seizures or a low white blood cell (WBC) count. An eye exam for cataracts is recommended at the beginning of treatment and every 6 months thereafter
- During treatment, tell your doctor if you feel dizzy or lightheaded upon standing, or if you have trouble swallowing
- Suicidal thoughts or actions may occur; tell your doctor if you have thoughts about death or suicide
- Since drowsiness has been reported with SEROQUEL XR, you should not participate in activities such as driving or operating machinery until you know that you can do so safely. Avoid drinking alcohol while taking SEROQUEL XR because SEROQUEL XR increases the effects of alcohol. Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated while taking SEROQUEL XR
- Common side effects: The most common side effects are drowsiness, dry mouth, increases in cholesterol and triglycerides, constipation, upset stomach, dizziness, a sudden drop in blood pressure upon standing, weight gain, increased hunger, tiredness, increases in blood sugar, difficulty speaking, and stuffy nose

This is not a complete summary of safety information. Please discuss the [Prescribing Information](#)  with your health care provider.

Indications

SEROQUEL XR is a once-daily tablet approved to treat acute depressive episodes in bipolar disorder; acute manic or mixed episodes in bipolar disorder alone or when added to lithium or divalproex; and long-term maintenance of bipolar disorder when added to lithium or divalproex.

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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Message for Health Care Professionals:

In order to keep effective drugs available on the market for use by you and your patients, the FDA relies on the voluntary reporting of serious adverse events that you suspect are associated with the use of an FDA-regulated drug. In the interest of patient safety, please be sure to notify the FDA or the manufacturer of any such events that you become aware of when discussing this patient questionnaire with your patients or otherwise.

