

Atypical Antipsychotic Medications for Treatment of Schizophrenia

Written by HealthyPlace.com Staff Writer

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Detailed info on atypical antipsychotic medications that help manage the positive and negative symptoms of Schizophrenia.

[List of schizophrenia medications](#)

Medications help in relieving the symptoms of Schizophrenia, help the individual feel better, and can delay or prevent a relapse. The goal of medication therapy is to use the least amount of medication possible to manage the [positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia](#) effectively, as well as to minimize unwanted side effects.

[Antipsychotic drug treatment for Schizophrenia](#)

is usually continuous, as relapse of symptoms is common when medication is discontinued.

Atypical Antipsychotic Medications

Schizophrenia is now being treated with new medications that are commonly called "[atypical antipsychotics](#)

." These drugs have less severe side effects than the former generation of drugs used to treat this debilitating disease.

[Antipsychotics or neuroleptic drugs](#) (as they're sometimes called) help relieve the [positive symptoms of schizophrenia](#)

by helping to correct an imbalance in the chemicals that enable brain cells to communicate with each other. {loadposition articleAdRight}As with drug treatments for other physical illnesses, many patients with severe mental illnesses may need to try several different antipsychotic medications before they find the one, or the combination of medications, that works best for them.

Conventional Antipsychotics

Conventional antipsychotics were introduced in the 1950's and all had similar ability to relieve the positive symptoms of schizophrenia. Most of these older "conventional" antipsychotics differed in the side effects they produced. These conventional antipsychotics include [chlorpromazine \(Thorazine\)](#), [fluphenazine \(Prolixin\)](#), [haloperidol \(Haldol\)](#), [thiothixene \(Navane\)](#),

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[trifluoperazine \(Stelazine\)](#), [perphenazine \(Trilafon\)](#), and [thioridazine \(Mellaril\)](#)

In the last decade new "atypical" antipsychotics have been introduced. Compared to the older "conventional" antipsychotics these medications appear to be equally effective for helping reduce the positive symptoms like hallucinations and delusions - but may be better than the older medications at relieving the [negative symptoms](#) of the illness, such as withdrawal, thinking problems, and lack of energy. The atypical antipsychotics include

[aripiprazole \(Abilify\)](#)

,
[risperidone \(Risperdal\)](#)

,
[clozapine \(Clozaril\)](#)

,
[olanzapine \(Zyprexa\)](#)

,
[quetiapine \(Seroquel\)](#)

, and

[ziprasidone \(Geodon\)](#)

Current treatment guidelines recommend using one of the atypical antipsychotics other than clozapine as a first line treatment option for newly diagnosed patients. However, for people already taking a conventional antipsychotic medication that is working well, a change to an atypical may not be the best option. People thinking of changing their medication should always consult with their doctor and work together to develop the most safe and effective treatment plan possible.

List of Schizophrenia Medications

- [Abilify \(aripiprazole\)](#)
- [Clozaril \(clozapine\)](#)
- [Geodon \(ziprasidone\)](#)
- [Haldol \(haloperidol\)](#)
- [Mellaril \(thioridazine\)](#)
- [Navane \(thiothixene\)](#)
- [Prolixin \(fluphenazine\)](#)
- [Risperdal \(Risperidone\)](#)
- [Seroquel \(quetiapine\)](#)

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- [Stelazine \(Trifluoperazine\)](#)
- [Thorazine \(chlorpromazine\)](#)
- [Trilafon \(perphenazine\)](#)
- [Zyprexa \(olanzapine\)](#)

next: [Antipsychotic Medications For Treating Psychotic Illness](#) or [Other Forms of Schizophrenia Treatment](#)