

Quetiapine (pron. que-tyre-pean)

What is quetiapine used for?

Quetiapine (also known as Seroquel[®]) is mainly used to help treat the symptoms of psychosis, schizophrenia, mania, and bipolar depression, and to prevent these symptoms coming back. It can be used to help depression if used with other medicines. It is sometimes also used to help the symptoms of anxiety and dementia. It is made as plain tablets and a sustained release (XL) tablet.

What is the usual dose of quetiapine?

The usual dose of quetiapine is around 600mg a day for psychosis or schizophrenia, 800mg a day for mania, and 300mg a day for bipolar depression. Sometimes 25-150mg a day is useful for helping dementia and anxiety.

How and when should I take quetiapine?

Swallow the tablets with at least half a glass of water whilst sitting or standing. If the label says to take it once a day this may be best at bedtime as it may make you sleepy at first. If it says twice a day this is usually best as morning and evening.

How long will quetiapine take to work?

It will usually start working within a couple of days, with the effect building over the next few weeks.

How long will I need to keep taking quetiapine for?

This will depend on what you are taking it for. Talk to your doctor about this.

Can I stop taking quetiapine suddenly?

Quetiapine is not addictive but do not stop taking it suddenly, even if you feel better. Your symptoms can return if stopped too early. This may occur weeks or even months after stopping quetiapine. You might also get stomach upset, and difficulty sleeping. When the time comes, you should withdraw quetiapine by a slow reduction in the dose over several weeks.

What should I do if I forget to take a dose of quetiapine?

If you are taking the XL capsules, start again as soon as you remember if within about 12 hours. If you are taking the plain tablets, start again as soon as you remember if within about 4-6 hours. After this just take the next dose as normal. Do not try to catch up by taking two doses at once as you may get more side-effects.

Can I drink alcohol while I am taking quetiapine?

If you drink alcohol while taking quetiapine it may make you feel more sleepy.

What sort of side-effects might I get if I am taking quetiapine?

Most people get:	Some people also get:	Rarely people can get:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleepiness • Dizziness • Dry mouth • Weight gain • Low blood pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headache • Feeling restless • Dry mouth and blurred vision • Upset tummy (feeling sick or diarrhoea [the runs]) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes

Do not be worried by this list of side effects. Some people get no side effects at all and others may get some effects that are not listed here. If you think you might have a side effect to your medicine, you should ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Can I drive or cycle while I am taking quetiapine?

You may feel a bit sleepy at first when taking quetiapine. It may slow down your reaction times. Until this wears off, or you know how quetiapine affects you, do not drive or operate machinery.

The small print: This short leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) or visit our website for more information. Do not share medicines with anyone else.