

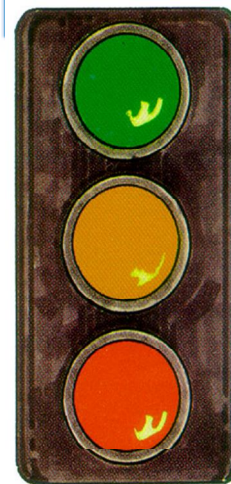
Norfolk and Suffolk



A green result means that your white blood cell count is normal and you can carry on with clozapine.

An amber result means your white blood cell count is a little lower than normal. So, you will need a blood test twice a week until it goes back to normal (green) or goes "red".

A red result mean that your white blood cells count is much lower than normal. You will need to stop taking clozapine straight away.



The clozapine system uses a traffic light system to check the results from your blood tests. The system has a red, amber and a green light.

The traffic light system

As you know regular blood testing is needed when you are taking clozapine. This is because clozapine can cause a drop in the number of your white blood cells. White blood cells are made in the bone marrow and are used by the body to fight infections. If you don't have many white cells, your body will find it hard to fight infections such as 'flu or a sore throat.

You can carry on taking clozapine. However, you must have a blood test twice a week until your result either goes red or green. If it goes red, you will have to stop clozapine. If it goes green you can go back to your usual blood testing frequency.

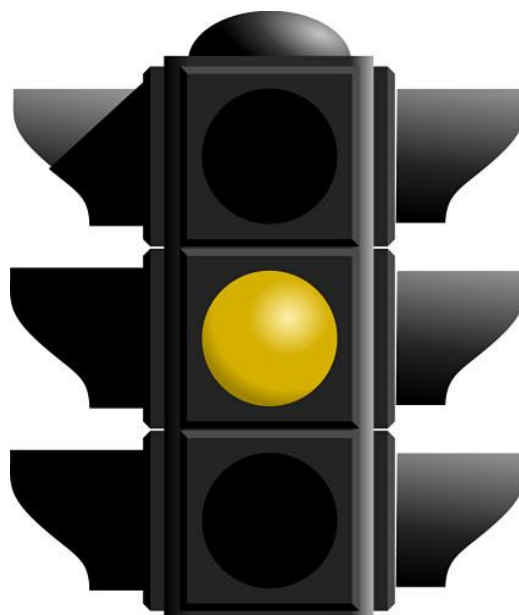
If you get any flu-like symptoms such as a sore throat or fever let your doctor know as soon as possible.

What happens now I've got an amber result?

- A red result is not unusual. It occurs in about 1 in 50 people (2%), often in the first three months of taking clozapine, but it can occur anytime. It can be caused by many different things other than clozapine, such as:
 - other medication that affects the bone marrow so please let your doctor know of any other medication that you might be taking e.g. antibiotics
 - your health e.g. having 'flu
 - the time of the day — white cell counts are lower earlier the day
 - chance — everyone's white cell count goes up and down and sometimes it goes below the clozapine limits
- it can also be a blood testing error.

What causes an amber result?

Clozapine - Getting an amber result



The small print: This leaflet is to help you understand about your medicine. You should also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). You may find lots more on the internet but beware as internet-based information is not always accurate. Do not share medicines with anyone else. Go to our website for fuller answers to these and many other questions e.g. driving, women's health, how it works, doses and interactions, and about the conditions. The "Handy charts" will help you compare the main medicines for each condition, how they work and their side effects.