

Antipsychotic Medications Possible Serious Side Effects

Examples:

Seroquel (quetiapine)
Risperdal (risperidone)
Zyprexa (olanzapine)
Haldol (haloperidol)

Extrapyramidal Symptoms (EPS)

MOVEMENT DISORDERS

Looks like shuffling feet, leaning or bending over while walking, stiff arms and legs, problems talking or can't stop making sounds.

AKATHISIA (unable to rest or relax)

Looks like fidgeting, pacing, rocking while standing or sitting, lifting feet as if marching on the spot, crossing and uncrossing legs while sitting.

HYPERSALIVATION (too much saliva)

Looks like drooling, spitting, can't keep mouth closed.

Increased risk for pneumonia

DYSTONIA (strong muscle spasms)

Looks like twisting of the neck, blinking or closing eyelids, dragging one leg when walking.

Can be very painful



Tardive Dyskinesia/Dystonia

Unusual or uncontrolled movements of face, lips, mouth, tongue, arms or legs. Looks like grunting, sticking out tongue, lip smacking, eye blinking, jerky movements. Tardive Dyskinesia can begin after the antipsychotic dose is started, lowered or stopped.

Sometimes permanent

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome

This is rare but life threatening. There is a higher risk with some types of dementia (e.g. Lewy Body). Get help right away if you see:

- **Fever, shaking, sweating**
- **Fast/irregular heart beat**
- **Very high blood pressure**
- **Confusion, unable to wake up**
- **Muscle cramps and stiffness**

If you see any of these side-effects, let the doctor or care team know and talk about lowering or stopping the medicine.

For more information: [See AUA Toolkit website](#)

Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) in collaboration with Addiction & Mental Health SCN