



REMINDER

Psychiatric Medication: Clozapine

Description of Issue and Importance

Clozapine is used to decrease mood swings, depression, mania, severe aggressive outbursts, psychosis, and agitation. Clozapine can have serious side effects. It is important to recognize the side effects and take action as necessary.

Recommended Action and Prevention Strategy

- Know the side effects of clozapine. Write down and report any noted side effects of the medication (and if symptoms are being managed) to your supervisor.
- Common, less serious side effects of clozapine can include sedation (drowsiness), dry mouth, weight gain, increased appetite, dizziness, or gastro-intestinal (stomach) upset.
- Occasional but serious side effects can include stiffness or muscle spasms in the tongue, jaw or neck, seizures, or increased thirst and urination. **Call the physician immediately.**
- Very rare but extremely serious side effects can include stiffness, fever and confusion; stiffness without breathing or swallowing; fever, chills, sore throat, skin bruising or small spots (this medication can cause a life threatening decrease in white blood cells); tired all the time, changes in breathing, rapid heartbeat and/or chest pain (this medication can cause heart problems). **Go to the emergency room (ER) immediately.**
- Discuss side effects and desired effects of clozapine with other team and family members.

Related Resources

"Clozapine" Fact Sheet

References

National Alliance on Mental Illness. Clozapine. Retrieved 10/22/2015 from:
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