

QUETIAPINE SANDOZ®

quetiapine fumarate film-coated tablets

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about Quetiapine Sandoz.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of you taking Quetiapine Sandoz against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Quetiapine Sandoz is used for

This medicine is used to treat mental illnesses such as:

- Bipolar disorder, an illness in which there are sustained mood swings either up (mania) or down (depression). During mania, patients experience episodes of over activity, elation or irritability.
- Schizophrenia, an illness with disturbances in thinking, feelings and behaviour.

How Quetiapine Sandoz works

It contains the active ingredient quetiapine fumarate and belongs to a group of medicines called antipsychotics. It works by correcting chemical imbalances in the brain, which may cause mental illness.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Quetiapine Sandoz has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may prescribe this medicine for another reason.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take Quetiapine Sandoz

When you must not take it

Do not take this medicine if you have an allergy to:

- quetiapine, the active ingredient or to any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet under Product description
- any other similar medicines.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- feeling faint.

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor says so.

It is not known if it is safe for you to take this medicine while you are pregnant. If it is necessary for you to take this medicine, your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking it with you. It is recommended that you do not breastfeed while taking this medicine, as this medicine passes into breast milk.

This medicine is not recommended for use in children.

Safety and effectiveness in children have not been established.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- heart or blood vessel problems or a family history of heart or blood vessel problems including low blood pressure, stroke, problems with your circulation, or any condition that affects blood flow to the brain, or a history of heart attack or the way your heart beats
- liver problems
- diabetes (or a family history of diabetes). Patients with diabetes or who have a higher chance of diabetes should have their blood sugar checked before and during treatment with Quetiapine Sandoz
- epilepsy, seizures or fits
- dementia or related behavioural disorders (especially in elderly patients)
- low white blood cell count
- urinary retention (a condition where you can't completely empty your bladder)
- enlarged prostate
- a blockage in your intestines
- increased pressure inside your eyes or glaucoma
- sleep apnoea - a condition where you stop breathing for short periods during normal nightly sleep.

Depression and other mental illnesses can lead to suicide. It is important to discuss all the risks of treating depression and mental illness as well as the risks of not treating it.

You should discuss all treatment choices with your doctor, not just the use of antidepressants. Patients (and caregivers of patients) need to monitor for any worsening of their condition and/or the emergence of thoughts of suicide or suicidal behaviour or thoughts of harming themselves and to seek medical advice immediately if these symptoms present.

Tell your doctor if you are lactose intolerant.

Quetiapine Sandoz tablets contain lactose.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking Quetiapine Sandoz.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from

your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Quetiapine Sandoz may interfere with each other. These include:

- medicines for anxiety
- medicines used to help you sleep (lorazepam)
- medicines used to control depression or mood swings
- medicines for epilepsy such as phenytoin or carbamazepine
- medicines for high blood pressure or heart conditions (diuretics or fluid tablets)
- some antibiotics such as rifampicin and erythromycin
- medicines used for fungal infections such as ketoconazole
- medicines for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- other antipsychotic medicines such as thioridazine
- medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease
- stimulants such as amphetamines
- medicines used to treat pain.
- medicines used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
- medicines used to treat inflammation
- medicines that have anticholinergic (muscarinic effects).

These medicines may be affected by Quetiapine Sandoz, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

How to take Quetiapine Sandoz

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how many tablets you will need to take and how long you need to take it.

Quetiapine Sandoz is usually started as a low dose that will be gradually increased by your doctor. Your doctor will recommend a dose. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines. Your doctor will monitor your condition.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of the correct dose for you.

They will tell you exactly how much to take.

Follow the instructions they give you.

If you take the wrong dose, Quetiapine Sandoz may not work as well and your problem may not improve

If you are elderly, or have liver problems, your doctor will adjust your dose to suit you.

When to take Quetiapine Sandoz

Take your medicine once or twice a day at about the same time each day. Swallow

your tablets whole with a full glass of water.

You can take your medicine with or without food.

How long to take Quetiapine Sandoz

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

This medicine helps control your condition, but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

If you forget to take it

Take your dose as soon as you remember, and continue to take it as you would normally.

If it is almost time for your next dose (within 6 hours), skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you have missed.

This may increase the chance of an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (Overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Quetiapine Sandoz. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include feeling drowsy, sleepy, dizzy or a fast heart beat.

While you are taking Quetiapine Sandoz

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Quetiapine Sandoz.

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

If you become pregnant while taking Quetiapine Sandoz, tell your doctor immediately.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor will check your progress and may want to do some blood tests from time to time. This helps to prevent unwanted side effects.

If you or someone you know is demonstrating any of the following warning signs of suicide while taking Quetiapine Sandoz, contact your doctor or a mental health professional immediately or go to the nearest hospital for treatment:

- Thoughts or talk of death or suicide
- Thoughts or talk of self-harm or harm to others

- Any recent attempts of self-harm
- Increase in aggressive behaviour, irritability or agitation
- Worsening of depression .

Occasionally, the symptoms of depression may include thoughts of suicide or self-harm. These symptoms may continue or get worse during the early stages of treatment until the effect of the medicine becomes apparent. All mentions of suicide or violence must be taken seriously.

Things you must not do

Do not take Quetiapine Sandoz to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give Quetiapine Sandoz to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not stop taking your medicine, or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.

Your doctor may gradually reduce the amount of Quetiapine Sandoz you take each day before stopping completely. If you stop Quetiapine Sandoz suddenly, your condition may worsen or your chance of getting an unwanted side effect may increase.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Quetiapine Sandoz affects you.

This medicine can cause dizziness or sleepiness in some people. Make sure you know how you react to Quetiapine Sandoz before you do anything that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or sleepy

Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking this medicine.

If you drink alcohol, dizziness and sleepiness may be worse. Your doctor may suggest you avoid alcohol while you are being treated with Quetiapine Sandoz.

If you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint, when getting out of bed or standing up, get up slowly.

Please talk to your doctor or pharmacist about these things if you think they may bother you.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Quetiapine Sandoz.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- feeling sleepy
- feeling dizzy or faint on standing up
- weight gain
- feeling weak
- constipation
- dry mouth
- runny or stuffy nose
- indigestion, upset stomach

- swelling of your hands, feet or ankles
- blurred vision
- difficulty swallowing
- abnormal dreams, nightmares.

These side effects are usually mild. Some of these side effects may go away after a while.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- persistent painful erection
- fainting
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- rapid heart beat
- very marked drowsiness
- abnormal muscle movements, including difficulty starting muscle movements, shaking, restlessness or muscle stiffness without pain.
- uncontrolled movements of the tongue, mouth, cheeks or jaw
- a sudden increase in body temperature, with sweating, or a fast heart beat
- very fast breathing
- muscle stiffness
- fits (seizures)
- severe allergic reaction (may include severe difficulty breathing, shock, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, skin rash, hay fever, or you may feel faint).

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Occasionally, Quetiapine Sandoz may be associated with changes in your liver or blood, which may require your doctor to do certain blood tests.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some people.

After taking Quetiapine Sandoz

Storage

Keep your medicine in the original container.

If you take it out of its original container it may not keep well.

Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store Quetiapine Sandoz or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

Quetiapine Sandoz 25mg are round, peach, film-coated tablets. Available in blisters and bottles# of 60 tablets.

Quetiapine Sandoz 100mg are round, yellow film coated tablets scored on one side. Available in blisters and bottles# of 90 tablets.

Quetiapine Sandoz 200mg are round, white film coated tablets scored on one side. Available in blisters and bottles# of 60 tablets.

Quetiapine Sandoz 300mg are capsule shaped, white film coated tablets scored on both sides. Available in blisters and bottles# of 60 tablets.

#bottles not currently marketed

Ingredients

Active ingredients:

- Each Quetiapine Sandoz 25mg tablet contains 25mg quetiapine fumarate
- Each Quetiapine Sandoz 100mg tablet contains 100mg quetiapine fumarate
- Each Quetiapine Sandoz 200mg tablet contains 200mg quetiapine fumarate
- Each Quetiapine Sandoz 300mg tablet contains 300mg quetiapine fumarate

Inactive ingredients:

- Povidone
- Calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate
- Microcrystalline cellulose (E 460)
- Sodium starch glycollate
- Lactose monohydrate
- Magnesium stearate (E572)
- Hypromellose
- Macrogol 400
- Titanium dioxide (E 171).

In addition

- Quetiapine Sandoz 25 mg contains iron oxide yellow CI77492 (E 172) iron oxide red CI77491 (E 172)
- Quetiapine Sandoz 100 mg contain iron oxide yellow CI77492 (E 172).

This medicine does not contain sucrose or gluten.

Supplier

Quetiapine is supplied in Australia by:

Sandoz Pty Ltd
ABN 60 075 449 553
54 Waterloo Road,
Macquarie Park, NSW 2113, Australia
Tel: 1800 726 369

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Australian Registration Numbers

Quetiapine Sandoz 25mg film-coated tablets:
AUST R 158104 (blisters)

Quetiapine Sandoz 100mg film-coated tablets AUST R 158109 (blisters)

Quetiapine Sandoz 200mg film-coated tablets AUST R 158099 (blisters)

Quetiapine Sandoz 300mg film-coated tablets AUST R 158106 (blisters)