

# QUETIAPINE-AS XR

Quetiapine fumarate

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about QUETIAPINE-AS XR. 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 it 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-AS XR is used for

QUETIAPINE-AS XR helps to correct chemical imbalances in the brain. It is used to treat conditions 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 overactivity, elation or irritability. During depression, patients may feel depressed or guilty, lack energy, lose their appetite and have trouble sleeping.
- Recurrent major depressive disorder, an illness where depression is longer lasting and/or more severe than the "low moods" everyone has from time to time due to the stress of everyday life. It is thought to be caused by a chemical imbalance in parts of the brain. This imbalance affects your whole body and can cause emotional and physical symptoms such as feeling low in spirit, loss of interest in activities, being unable to enjoy life, poor appetite or overeating, disturbed sleep, often waking up early, loss of sex drive, lack of energy and feeling guilty over nothing.
- Generalised anxiety disorder, where patients have excessive anxiety and worry.
- Schizophrenia, an illness with disturbances in thinking, feelings and behaviour.

QUETIAPINE-AS XR belongs to a group of medicines called antipsychotics.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why QUETIAPINE-AS XR has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed this medicine for another reason.

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

QUETIAPINE-AS XR is not addictive.

### Before you take it

#### When you must not take it

Do not take QUETIAPINE-AS XR if you have an allergy to:

- quetiapine, the active ingredient in QUETIAPINE-AS XR
- any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

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 or you may feel faint.

QUETIAPINE-AS XR is not recommended for use in children.

There is not enough information on its effects in children.

**Do not take it after the use by (expiry) date printed on the pack.**

**Do not take it 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 QUETIAPINE-AS XR talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

#### Before you start to take it

**Tell your doctor if you have any allergies to:**

- any other medicines
- any other substances such as foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have, or have had, any medical conditions, especially the following:

- 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, problems with the way your heart beats or a history of heart attack
- 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-AS XR.
- epilepsy (seizures or fits)
- dementia or related behavioural disorders (especially in elderly patients)
- low white blood cell count
- sleep apnoea - a condition where you stop breathing for short periods during your normal nightly sleep
- urinary retention (a condition where you can't completely empty your bladder)
- an enlarged prostate
- a blockage in your intestines
- increased pressure inside your eyes or glaucoma.

**Tell your doctor or mental health professional if you have any mental/mood changes or suicidal thoughts.**

Depression and other mental illnesses can increase the risk of 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.

**Do not take QUETIAPINE-AS XR if you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor says so. Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits involved.**

It is not known if it is safe for you to take it while you are pregnant.

However, if you need to take it during your pregnancy, the doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking it with you.

It is recommended that you do not breastfeed while taking it, as it may pass into breast milk.

Before your doctor starts you on QUETIAPINE-AS XR your doctor may want to take some tests (eg blood tests, blood pressure, weight or height measurements). These tests may help to prevent side effects.

**Tell your doctor if you are lactose intolerant.** QUETIAPINE-AS XR tablets contain lactose.

#### 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-AS XR may interfere with each other, these include:

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

These medicines may be affected by QUETIAPINE-AS XR, 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 will advise you.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information about medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking QUETIAPINE-AS XR.

If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell them before you take any QUETIAPINE-AS XR.

### How to take it

**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 on the pack, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

#### How to take it

**Swallow your QUETIAPINE-AS XR tablets whole with a full glass of water. Do not split, chew or crush the tablets.**

If you split, chew or crush the tablets they will not work properly.

#### How much to take

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

This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

QUETIAPINE-AS XR is usually started as a low dose that will be increased by your doctor. Your doctor will recommend a dose especially for you. This will depend on various factors including your age, condition being treated, other medical conditions (eg liver problems), other medicines you are taking and how you may react to QUETIAPINE-AS XR.

Your doctor will monitor your condition and may change your dose depending on how you respond to it.

Your doctor will use the lowest dose for the least amount of time to keep you well.

Your doctor may have switched your treatment from quetiapine immediate release tablets to QUETIAPINE-AS XR tablets. Your doctor will generally prescribe you a once daily dose of QUETIAPINE-AS XR, which is equivalent to your total daily dose of quetiapine immediate release tablets.

Your doctor will tell you how many tablets you will need to take each day.

#### *When to take it*

**QUETIAPINE-AS XR should be taken once a day, at approximately the same time each day.**

Taking your tablets at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take the tablets.

It should be taken without food.

#### *How long to take it*

**Continue taking the tablets for as long as your doctor tells you.**

QUETIAPINE-AS XR helps control your condition, but does not cure it.

Therefore, you must take it every day.

**Do not stop taking it unless your doctor tells you to - even if you feel better.**

#### *If you forget to take it*

**If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.**

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

**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 (13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much QUETIAPINE-AS XR. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.** You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too many QUETIAPINE-AS XR tablets you may feel drowsy, sleepy, dizzy or have fast heart beats.

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#### **While you are taking it**

##### *Things you must do*

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking it.**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicines, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are taking it.**

**Tell your doctor or mental health professional immediately, or go to the nearest hospital, if you have any of the following suicidal thoughts or other mental/mood changes:**

- 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.

**If you plan to have surgery that needs a general anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking it.**

**If you become pregnant while taking it, tell your doctor immediately.**

**If you need to have any medical tests (including urine drug screening) while you are taking it, tell your doctor.**

It may affect the results of some tests.

**Be sure to keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

Your doctor will check your progress and may want to take some tests (eg blood tests, blood pressure, weight or height measurements) from time to time. These tests may help to prevent side effects.

#### *Things you must not do*

**Do not stop taking it, or change the dosage, even if you are feeling better, without checking with your doctor.**

If you stop taking it suddenly, your condition may worsen or your chance of getting an unwanted side effect may increase. To prevent this, your doctor may gradually reduce the amount of QUETIAPINE-AS XR you take each day before stopping completely.

**Do not take it to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar or they have the same condition as you.**

**Do not take any medicines that cause drowsiness while you are taking it, unless recommended by your doctor.**

#### *Things to be careful of*

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how QUETIAPINE-AS XR affects you.**

It can make some people dizzy or sleepy. Make sure you know how you react to it before you drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or sleepy.

**If it makes you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint, be careful when getting up from a sitting or lying position.**

Standing up slowly, especially when you get up from bed or chairs, will help your body get used to the change in position and blood pressure. If this problem continues or gets worse, talk to your doctor.

**Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking it.**

Combining QUETIAPINE-AS XR and alcohol can make you more sleepy or dizzy. Your doctor may suggest you avoid alcohol while you are being treated with it.

**Avoid getting over-heated or dehydrated - do not over-exercise, in hot weather stay inside in a cool place, stay out of the sun, do not wear too much or heavy clothing, drink plenty of water. Keep warm in cool weather.**

QUETIAPINE-AS XR may affect the way your body reacts to temperature changes.

**Avoid drinking large quantities of grapefruit juice.**

This medicine may be affected by grapefruit juice.

**Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns.**

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

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#### **Side effects**

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

All medicines can have side effects.

Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects. Some side effects may be related to the dose of QUETIAPINE-AS XR or may be more likely to occur during long term treatment. Therefore, it is important that you tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell, even if you think the problems are not connected with this medicine. Your doctor may then decide to adjust your dose or use a different medicine.

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

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

- feeling sleepy
- weight gain, increased appetite
- dry mouth
- upset stomach, constipation, indigestion, vomiting (mainly in elderly or children)
- feeling weak
- swelling of the hands, ankles or feet
- runny or stuffy nose (particularly in children)
- blurred vision
- abnormal dreams, nightmares
- irritability
- shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing and/or tightness in the chest
- fast or irregular heartbeats (palpitations).

These side effects are usually mild.

Some of these side effects may go away after a while.

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice the following:**

- difficulty swallowing
- falling, feeling dizzy or faint on standing up
- difficulty in speaking
- rapid heart beat
- symptoms of high sugar levels in the blood (including passing large amounts of urine, excessive thirst, increase in appetite with a loss of weight, feeling tired, drowsy, weak, depressed, irritable and generally unwell)
- breast enlargement, unusual secretion of breast milk.

These are serious side effects. You may need medical attention.

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

- abnormal muscle movements, including difficulty starting muscle movements,

- shaking, restlessness or muscle stiffness without pain
- worm-like movements of the tongue or other uncontrolled movements of the tongue, mouth, cheeks or jaw which may progress to the arms and legs
- a sudden increase in body temperature, with sweating, or a fast heart beat
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- very marked drowsiness
- reduced consciousness
- fits (seizures)
- long-lasting and painful erections
- fainting (particularly in children)
- severe allergic reaction (may include severe difficulty in breathing, shock, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, skin rash, hayfever, or you may feel faint)
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- severe upper stomach pain, often with nausea and vomiting (particularly in patients with other risk factors such as gallstones, alcohol consumption and/or increased levels of certain fats within the blood).

These are very serious side effects.

You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Occasionally, QUETIAPINE-AS XR may be associated with changes in your liver function or blood (eg blood fat levels such as cholesterol or triglyceride, blood sugar levels, blood pressure, thyroid hormone levels, white blood cells). These can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

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#### After taking it

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#### Storage

**Keep your tablets in the blister pack until it is time to take them.**

If you take the tablets out of the blister pack, they will not keep well.

**Keep it in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.**

**Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on a window sill.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where 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 it or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.

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#### Product description

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##### *What QUETIAPINE-AS XR looks like*

Quetiapine-AS XR 50 mg tablets: Peach coloured, round shaped, biconvex film coated tablets, debossed with 'Q50' on one side and plain on other.

Quetiapine-AS XR 200 mg tablets: Yellow coloured, round shaped, biconvex film coated tablets, debossed with 'I2' on one side and plain on other.

Quetiapine-AS XR 300 mg tablets: Light yellow coloured, round shaped, biconvex film coated

tablets, debossed with 'Q300' on one side and plain on other.

Quetiapine-AS XR 400 mg tablets: White coloured, round shaped, biconvex, film coated tablets, debossed with 'I4' on one side and plain on other.

All strengths are available in packs\* of 10, 30, 60 or 100 tablets.

\* Not all pack sizes are marketed in Australia.

#### *Ingredients*

Each QUETIAPINE-AS XR tablet contains quetiapine fumarate as the active ingredient equivalent to quetiapine 50 mg, 200 mg, 300 mg or 400 mg.

Other ingredients include:

- lactose
- hypromellose
- sodium chloride
- povidone
- talc
- magnesium stearate.

The 50 mg tablet also contains microcrystalline cellulose (50 mg) and Opadry II 85F540003 pink - PI no. 109248.

The 200 mg tablet also contains Opadry 03B52117 yellow - PI no. 106712.

The 300 mg tablet also contains Opadry 03B82929 yellow - PI no. 106295.

The 400 mg tablet also contains Opadry 03B58900 white - PI no.106176.

#### *Sponsor*

Medis Pharma Pty Ltd  
1002/53 Walker St  
North Sydney NSW 2060

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QUETIAPINE-AS XR Australian Registration Numbers:

50 mg - AUST R 241756

200 mg - AUST R 226820

300 mg - AUST R 226822

400 mg - AUST R 226819