

## Your medicine is called clozapine tablets

### It is to help:

#### bad thoughts



hearing voices  
seeing things that aren't there  
bad thoughts

### How to take it:

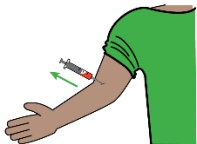


Take each dose with half a glass of water



Take every day. Do not stop taking it suddenly unless your doctor tells you to stop. Tell your carer if you have missed more than 2 days doses

#### blood test



You will need regular blood tests when taking this medicine



Clozapine can make it hard for your body to deal with hot weather  
Don't wear heavy clothing in hot weather  
Don't exercise too much on very hot days

### You may also: (tell your carer if any of these worry you)



feel sleepy or tired

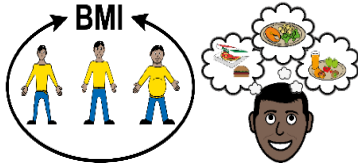


feel dizzy when you stand up



get odd heart beats

**body mass index**



feel hungry  
put on weight



dribble a lot



bed wetting



have a shake

**constipation**



get constipated, or being bunged up  
tell a carer if you haven't done a poo for 2 days

**Always let a carer know straight away if you:**

**constipation**



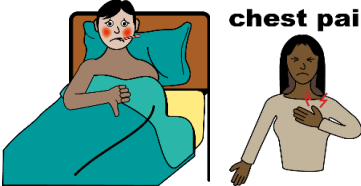
are not be able to do a poo for 3 days  
this is **very** important

**epilepsy**



have a seizure or fit

**chest pain**

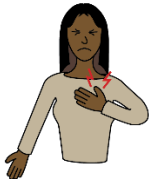


get a fever, chest pain and stiff muscles



get a fever, sore throat or feel ill, especially in the  
first 18 weeks of taking clozapine

**chest pain**

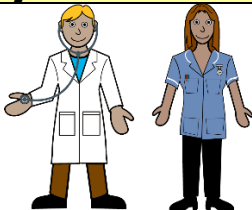


get chest pain and odd heart beats



stop smoking

**If you would like to know more:**



Ask your nurse, pharmacist or doctor.  
Or ask one of your carers to find out more for you.

This is a summary of the information on the next page.  
For more information, you can also see the other leaflets on our Choice and Medication website.  
You must also see the maker's Patient Information Leaflet for full information.

### Some more information on clozapine tablets

**Clozapine** is an antipsychotic. It can help the symptoms of conditions such as psychosis or schizophrenia.

**How to take it:** Take the tablets with at least half a glass of water and swallow whole. Take them every day, if you forget to take clozapine for more than 48 hours, contact your doctor because you will need to start again from a low dose and build it up again.

**Possible side effects include:** Feeling sleepy or tired, constipation, sickness and making extra saliva. It can cause fever. You could feel faint or dizzy, especially when standing up and you may be more at risk of falling over. These should wear off or at least improve but, if not, please tell your health professional. Many people also more hungry and put on weight. It can cause Parkinson's disease-like symptoms (stiffness, tremor, movement problems) and can make existing Parkinson's disease worse. Another side effect is that it can cause blood sugar levels to go up and increase your risk of getting diabetes. Some people also get a faster or odd heartbeat. Talk to your health professional if these happen to you.

**Rare but important side effects:** This medicine can affect your blood counts. This could make you more at risk of getting infections. If you get a fever or an infection, flu symptoms or a sore throat, please tell your health professional STRAIGHT AWAY. You will need an extra blood test. It can affect the heart which might cause chest pains or breathing problems. Constipation, which is common, can sometimes be severe. If you get constipation lasting more than about 3-4 days, seek help. Another uncommon but serious side effect is Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome. This can cause a racing pulse, muscle stiffness and confusion. Other serious side effects include seizures (fits), and a slight increase in the risk of having a heart attack. Contact your health professional if you get any of these. This medicine may slightly increase the risk of stroke. This is more of a problem for the elderly. You, your relatives or carers may wish to discuss this with your doctor. There are a number of other potential side effects, some serious. Make sure to carefully check the Product Information Leaflet for full details of other advice and all its other potential side effects.

**Warnings and Cautions:** You must have regular blood tests while on this treatment; every week for the first few months. You must never miss these. You may need to continue having blood tests for a few weeks when you come off treatment too. If you are told to stop taking clozapine, you must do so. NEVER change the dose yourself. This medicine does not mix well with a large number of other medicines. Always check whether your medicines are okay to take alongside clozapine. This includes some over-the-counter type medicines and alcohol. There can be quite serious problems in smokers or e-cigarette users if they change the amount they smoke (up or down). Stopping caffeine (tea or coffee) may affect this medicine, so speak to your doctor if you do. This medicine can make you sleepy and slow down your reactions. If this happens, do not drive or use tools or machines. Drinking alcohol can cause you to become more sleepy. If you are on this long-term you should have regular tests on your blood pressure, glucose, lipids or blood fats, and weight. For women: women should use highly effective contraception, if necessary. This means using an IUD (intrauterine device; a coil) or an IUS (intrauterine system), an implant or sterilisation. The oral contraceptive pill may not work so well when you are on this treatment. Advice from a specialist in contraception may be needed. This medicine is not usually given during pregnancy. Women should not breastfeed while on treatment.

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**The small print:** This short leaflet is to help you understand more about clozapine. You **must** also read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (PIL). Go to our website for fuller answers to many questions.

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