

# ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS



Antipsychotic medications are used in the treatment of schizophrenia, the manic phase of bipolar disorder, other delusional disorders, and depressive psychosis. First- and second-generation antipsychotics are equally effective, however, they have distinct and significant side effect profiles. Medication selection should be tailored to the client's individual circumstances and risk factors.

	First-Generation Antipsychotics	Second-Generation Antipsychotics
Medication names	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chlorpromazine (low potency)</li> <li>Fluphenazine (medium potency)</li> <li>Haloperidol (high potency)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clozapine</li> <li>Olanzapine</li> <li>Risperidone</li> </ul>
Mechanism of action	Block dopamine receptors in the central nervous system	Strong blockade of serotonin receptors, mild blockade of dopamine receptors
Adverse effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High risk of extrapyramidal motor symptoms (EPS)</li> <li>Anticholinergic effects: dry eyes, dry mouth, urine retention, constipation, tachycardia</li> <li>Sedation</li> <li>Orthostatic hypotension</li> <li>Reduced seizure threshold</li> <li>Sexual dysfunction</li> <li>Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (life-threatening)</li> </ul> <p><b>Chlorpromazine &amp; haloperidol:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prolonged QT interval</li> <li>Hormonal changes, including menstrual irregularities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower risk of EPS</li> <li>Can cause tardive dyskinesia</li> <li>Higher risks of metabolic effects:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weight gain</li> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>Dyslipidemia</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Clozapine:</b></p> <p>Risk of agranulocytosis (severely low WBCs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must monitor CBC regularly</li> <li>Only used if other options not effective</li> </ul>
Contra-indications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clients with dementia</li> <li>Clients with Parkinson's disease</li> </ul>	Caution in clients at risk for metabolic conditions or cardiovascular disease

## Extrapyramidal Motor Symptoms

Extrapyramidal symptoms can be irreversible. Monitor for symptoms and alert care team at earliest sign.

### Dystonia

- Facial grimacing
- Muscle spasm of face, tongue, neck, back



### Parkinsonism

- Tremors at rest
- Stooped posture
- Shuffling gait



### Akathisia

- Restlessness
- Difficulty remaining still
- Pacing or rocking



### Tardive dyskinesia

- Protrusion of tongue
- Lip smacking
- Involuntary movements



## NOTES

