

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Seroquel® XR 50mg
prolonged-release tablets
(quetiapine)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any side effects not listed in this leaflet. See Section 4.

In this leaflet:

- What Seroquel XR is and what it is used for
- Before you take Seroquel XR
- How to take Seroquel XR
- Possible side effects
- How to store Seroquel XR
- Further information

1. What Seroquel XR is and what it is used for

Seroquel XR contains a substance called quetiapine. This belongs to a group of medicines called anti-psychotics. Seroquel XR can be used to treat several illnesses, such as:

- Bipolar depression and major depressive episodes in major depressive disorder: where you may feel sad or you may find that you feel depressed, feel guilty, lack energy, lose your appetite or can't sleep.
- Mania: where you may feel very excited, elated, agitated, enthusiastic or hyperactive or have poor judgement including being aggressive or disruptive.
- Schizophrenia: where you may hear or feel things that are not there, believe things that are not true or feel unusually suspicious, anxious, confused, guilty, tense or depressed.

When Seroquel XR is being taken to treat major depressive episodes in major depressive disorder, it will be taken in addition to another drug being used to treat this illness.

Your doctor may continue to prescribe Seroquel XR even when you are feeling better.

2. Before you take Seroquel XR

Do not take Seroquel XR if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to quetiapine or any of the other ingredients of Seroquel XR (see section 6: Further information)
- you are taking any of the following medicines:
 - some medicines for HIV
 - azole medicines (for fungal infections)
 - erythromycin or clarithromycin (for infections)
 - nefazodone (for depression).

Do not take Seroquel XR if the above applies to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Seroquel XR.

Take special care with Seroquel XR

Before you take your medicine, tell your doctor if:

- You, or someone in your family, have or have had any heart problems, for example heart rhythm problems or if you are taking any medicines that may have an impact on the way your heart beats.
- You have low blood pressure.
- You have had a stroke, especially if you are elderly.
- You have problems with your liver.
- You have ever had a fit (seizure).
- You have diabetes or have a risk of getting diabetes. If you do, your doctor may check your blood sugar levels while you are taking Seroquel XR.
- You know that you have had low levels of white blood cells in the past (which may or may not have been caused by other medicines).
- You are an elderly person with dementia (loss of brain function). If you are, Seroquel XR should not be taken because the group of medicines that Seroquel XR belongs to may increase the risk of stroke, or in some cases the risk of death, in elderly people with dementia.
- You or someone else in your family has a history of blood clots, as medicines like these have been associated with formation of blood clots.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following after taking Seroquel XR:

- A combination of fever, severe muscle stiffness, sweating or a lowered level of consciousness (a disorder called "neuroleptic malignant syndrome"). Immediate medical treatment may be needed.
- Uncontrollable movements, mainly of your face or tongue.
- Dizziness or a severe sense of feeling sleepy. This could increase the risk of accidental injury (fall) in elderly patients.
- Fits (seizures).
- A long-lasting and painful erection (Priapism).

These conditions can be caused by this type of medicine.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- A fever, flu-like symptoms, sore throat, or any other infection, as this could be a result of a very low white blood cell count, which may require Seroquel to be stopped and/or treatment to be given.
- Constipation along with persistent abdominal pain, or constipation which has not responded to treatment, as this may lead to a more serious blockage of the bowel.

Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression

If you are depressed you may sometimes have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. These may be increased when first starting treatment, since these medicines all take time to work, usually about two weeks but sometimes longer. These thoughts may also be increased if you suddenly stop taking your medication.

You may be more likely to think like this if you are a young adult. Information from clinical trials has shown an increased risk of suicidal thoughts and/or suicidal behaviour in young adults aged less than 25 years with depression.

If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away. You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed, and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour.

Weight gain has been seen in patients taking Seroquel XR. You and your doctor should check your weight regularly.

Taking other medicines

Please tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines because it may affect the way the medicines work. This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription and herbal medicines.

- Do not take Seroquel XR if you are taking any of the following medicines:
- Some medicines for HIV.
 - Azole medicines (for fungal infections).
 - Erythromycin or clarithromycin (for infections).
 - Nefazodone (for depression).

- Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:
- Epilepsy medicines (like phenytoin or carbamazepine).
 - High blood pressure medicines.
 - Barbiturates (for difficulty sleeping).
 - Thioridazine or Lithium (other anti-psychotic medicines).
 - Medicines that have an impact on the way your heart beats, for example, drugs that can cause an imbalance in electrolytes (low levels of potassium or magnesium) such as diuretics (water pills) or certain antibiotics (drugs to treat infections).
 - Medicines that can cause constipation.

Before you stop taking any of your medicines, please talk to your doctor first.

Taking Seroquel XR with food and drink

- Seroquel XR can be affected by food and you should therefore take your tablets at least one hour before a meal or prior to bedtime.
- Be careful how much alcohol you drink. This is because the combined effect of Seroquel XR and alcohol can make you sleepy.
- Do not drink grapefruit juice while you are taking Seroquel XR. It can affect the way the medicine works.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant, trying to get pregnant, or breast-feeding, talk to your doctor before taking Seroquel XR. You should not take Seroquel XR during pregnancy unless this has been discussed with your doctor. Seroquel XR should not be taken if you are breast-feeding.

The following symptoms which can represent withdrawal may occur in newborn babies of mothers that have used Seroquel XR in the last trimester (last three months of their pregnancy): shaking, muscle stiffness and/or weakness, sleepiness, agitation, breathing problems, and difficulty in feeding. If your baby develops any of these symptoms you may need to contact your doctor.

Driving and using machines

Your tablets may make you feel sleepy. Do not drive or use any tools or machines until you know how the tablets affect you.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Seroquel XR

Seroquel XR contains lactose which is a type of sugar. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, talk to your doctor before taking this medicine.

Effect on Urine Drug Screens

If you are having a urine drug screen, taking Seroquel XR may cause positive results for methadone or certain drugs for depression called tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) when some test methods are used, even though you may not be taking methadone or TCAs. If this happens, a more specific test can be performed.

3. How to take Seroquel XR

Always take Seroquel XR exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. Your doctor will decide on your starting dose. The maintenance dose (daily dose) will depend on your illness and needs but will usually be between 150mg and 800mg.

- You will take your tablets once a day.
- Do not split, chew or crush the tablets.
- Swallow your tablets whole with a drink of water.
- Take your tablets without food (at least one hour before a meal or at bedtime, your doctor will tell you when).
- Do not drink grapefruit juice while you are taking Seroquel XR. It can affect the way the medicine works.
- Do not stop taking your tablets even if you feel better, unless your doctor tells you.

Liver problems

If you have liver problems your doctor may change your dose.

Elderly people

If you are elderly your doctor may change your dose.

Children and adolescents under 18 years

Seroquel XR should not be used by children and adolescents aged under 18 years.

If you take more Seroquel XR than you should
If you take more Seroquel XR than prescribed by your doctor, you may feel sleepy, feel dizzy and experience abnormal heart beats. Contact your doctor or nearest hospital straight away. Keep the Seroquel XR tablets with you.

If you forget to take a dose of Seroquel XR
If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time to take the next dose, wait until then. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

If you stop taking Seroquel XR
If you suddenly stop taking Seroquel XR, you may be unable to sleep (insomnia), or you may feel sick (nausea), or you may experience headache, diarrhoea, being sick (vomiting), dizziness or irritability. Your doctor may suggest you reduce the dose gradually before stopping treatment.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Seroquel XR can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. If any of the following side effects get serious, or if you notice side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

- Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):
- Dizziness (may lead to falls), headache, dry mouth.
 - Feeling sleepy (this may go away with time, as you keep taking Seroquel XR) (may lead to falls).
 - Discontinuation symptoms (symptoms which occur when you stop taking Seroquel XR) include not being able to sleep (insomnia), feeling sick (nausea), headache, diarrhoea, being sick (vomiting), dizziness, and irritability. Gradual withdrawal over a period of at least 1 to 2 weeks is advisable.
 - Putting on weight.
 - Abnormal muscle movements. These include difficulty starting muscle movements, shaking, feeling restless or muscle stiffness without pain.

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Rapid heartbeat.
- Feeling like your heart is pounding, racing or has skipped beats.
- Constipation, upset stomach (indigestion).
- Feeling weak.
- Swelling of arms or legs.
- Low blood pressure when standing up. This may make you feel dizzy or faint (may lead to falls).
- Increased levels of sugar in the blood.
- Blurred vision.
- Abnormal dreams and nightmares.
- Feeling more hungry.
- Feeling irritated.
- Disturbance in speech and language.
- Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression.
- Shortness of breath.
- Vomiting (mainly in the elderly).
- Fever.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Fits or seizures.
- Allergic reactions that may include raised lumps (weals), swelling of the skin and swelling around the mouth.
- Unpleasant sensations in the legs (also called restless legs syndrome).
- Difficulty swallowing.
- Uncontrollable movements, mainly of your face or tongue.
- Sexual dysfunction.
- Diabetes.
- Change in electrical activity of the heart seen on ECG (QT prolongation).
- A slower than normal heart rate which may occur when starting treatment and which may be associated with low blood pressure and fainting.
- Difficulty in passing urine.
- Fainting (may lead to falls).
- Stuffy nose.

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- A combination of high temperature (fever), sweating, stiff muscles, feeling very drowsy or faint (a disorder called “neuroleptic malignant syndrome”).
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice).
- Inflammation of the liver (hepatitis).
- A long-lasting and painful erection (priapism).
- Swelling of breasts and unexpected production of breast milk (galactorrhoea).
- Menstrual disorder.
- Blood clots in the veins especially in the legs (symptoms include swelling, pain and redness in the leg), which may travel through blood vessels to the lungs causing chest pain and difficulty in breathing. If you notice any of these symptoms seek medical advice immediately.
- Walking, talking, eating or other activities while you are asleep.
- Body temperature decreased (hypothermia).
- Inflammation of the pancreas.
- A condition (called “metabolic syndrome”) where you may have a combination of 3 or more of the following: an increase in fat around your abdomen, a decrease in “good cholesterol” (HDL-C), an increase in a type of fat in your blood called triglycerides, high blood pressure and an increase in your blood sugar.
- Combination of fever, flu-like symptoms, sore throat, or any other infection with very low white blood cell count, a condition called agranulocytosis.
- Bowel obstruction.

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- Severe rash, blisters, or red patches on the skin.
- A severe allergic reaction (called anaphylaxis) which may cause difficulty in breathing or shock.
- Rapid swelling of the skin, usually around the eyes, lips and throat (angioedema).
- A serious blistering condition of the skin, mouth, eyes and genitals (Stevens-Johnson syndrome).
- Inappropriate secretion of a hormone that controls urine volume.
- Breakdown of muscle fibers and pain in muscles (rhabdomyolysis).
- Worsening of pre-existing diabetes.

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Skin rash with irregular red spots (erythema multiforme).
- Serious, sudden allergic reaction with symptoms such as fever and blisters on the skin and peeling of the skin (toxic epidermal necrolysis).
- Symptoms of withdrawal may occur in newborn babies of mothers that have used Seroquel XR during their pregnancy.

The class of medicines to which Seroquel XR belongs can cause heart rhythm problems, which can be serious and in severe cases may be fatal.

Some side effects are only seen when a blood test is taken. These include changes in the amount of certain fats (triglycerides and total cholesterol) or sugar in the blood, changes in the amount of thyroid hormones in your blood, increased liver enzymes, decreases in the number of certain types of blood cells, decrease in the amount of red blood cells, increased blood creatine phosphokinase (a substance in the muscles), decrease in the amount of sodium in the blood and increases in the amount of the hormone prolactin in the blood. Increases in the hormone prolactin could in rare cases lead to the following:

- Men and women to have swelling of breasts and unexpectedly produce breast milk.
- Women to have no monthly period or irregular periods.

Your doctor may ask you to have blood tests from time to time.

Children and adolescents

The same side effects that may occur in adults may also occur in children and adolescents.

The following side effects have been seen more often in children and adolescents or have not been seen in adults:

Very Common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Increase in the amount of a hormone called prolactin, in the blood. Increases in the hormone prolactin could in rare cases lead to the following:
 - Boys and girls to have swelling of breasts and unexpectedly produce breast milk.
 - Girls to have no monthly period or irregular periods.
- Increased appetite.
- Vomiting.
- Abnormal muscle movements. These include difficulty starting muscle movements, shaking, feeling restless or muscle stiffness without pain.
- Increase in blood pressure.

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Feeling weak, fainting (may lead to falls).
- Stuffy nose.
- Feeling irritated.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 6764971 Fax: +353 1 6762517
Website: www.hpra.ie E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Seroquel XR

- Keep out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use Seroquel XR after the expiry date (Exp) which is stated on the carton and blister strips. The expiry day refers to the last day of that month.
- Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package.
- If your tablets appear to be discoloured, damaged or show any other signs of deterioration, please return these to your pharmacist who will advise you further.
- Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.
- If you have any left-over/unused tablets, please return these to your pharmacist for safe disposal.

6. Further information

What Seroquel XR contains

- The active substance is quetiapine. Each tablet contains 50mg of quetiapine (as quetiapine fumarate).
- The other ingredients are:
Tablet core: microcrystalline cellulose, sodium citrate, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, hypromellose
Tablet coating: hypromellose, macrogol 400, titanium dioxide (E171) and iron oxide (E172).

What Seroquel XR looks like and contents of the pack

Seroquel XR are peach coloured tablets engraved with “XR 50” on one side and plain on the other.

Your medicine is available in blister packs containing 60 tablets.

Manufacturer

Manufactured by: AstraZeneca UK Ltd.,
Silk Road Business Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 2NA, UK.

Procured from within the EU by the Parallel Product Authorisation holder:
Imbat Ltd, Unit L2, North Ring Business Park, Santry, Dublin 9.

The product is repackaged by:
Doncaster Pharmaceuticals Group Ltd, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN3 1QR, UK.

Distributed by: Eurodrug Ltd, Santry, Dublin 9.

PPA No: 1151/36/4

This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:

COUNTRY	TRADE NAME
Austria	Seroquel XR
Belgium	Seroquel XR
Bulgaria	Seroquel XR
Cyprus	Seroquel XR
Czech Republic	Seroquel Prolong
Denmark	Seroquel Prolong
Estonia	Seroquel XR
Finland	Seroquel Prolong
Germany	Seroquel Prolong Retardtabletten
Greece	Seroquel XR
Hungary	Seroquel XR
Iceland	Seroquel Prolong
Ireland	Seroquel XR
Italy	Seroquel compresse a rilascio prolungato
Latvia	Seroquel XR
Lithuania	Seroquel XR
Luxembourg	Seroquel XR
Malta	Seroquel XR
Netherlands	Seroquel XR
Norway	Seroquel Depot
Poland	Seroquel XR
Portugal	Seroquel SR
Romania	Seroquel XR
Slovakia	Seroquel XR
Slovenia	Seroquel SR
Spain	Seroquel Prolong
Sweden	Seroquel Depot
United Kingdom	Seroquel XL

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