

Two minute overview of antipsychotics

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Antipsychotics can be classified as [typical](#) or [atypical](#). There are very few reasons now where a typical would be used in preference to an atypical in first line treatment. Atypical antipsychotic medications generally have fewer side effects and are as effective (clozapine is more effective than most of the older antipsychotics).

Antipsychotics cause [anticholinergic side effects](#) and [extrapyramidal side effects](#) (EPSE).

The two main medical emergencies associated with use of antipsychotics are [oculogyric crisis](#) and [neuroleptic malignant syndrome](#).

Risperidone (oral) is more likely to cause EPSE than the other atypical antipsychotics, although to a lesser degree than the typical antipsychotics.

Antipsychotics and their trade names available in Australia:

[Atypical antipsychotics](#)

- [amisulpride](#) (Solian) - tablets and liquid
- [quetiapine](#) (Seroquel) - tablets
- [olanzapine](#) (Zyprexa) - tablets, wafer (Zyprexa Zydis), intramuscular injection (Zyprexa IM)
- [risperidone](#) (Risperdal) - tablets, oral dissolving tablets (Risperdal Quicklet), liquid
- [aripiprazole](#) (Abilify) - tablets
- [clozapine](#) (Clopine, Clozaril, CloSyn) - tablets
 - not a first line treatment, highly specialised

[Atypical antipsychotics - depot](#)

- [risperidone](#) (Risperdal Consta)

[Typical antipsychotics](#)

- [chlorpromazine](#) (Largactil, Chlorpromazine Mixture, Chlorpromazine Mixture Forte) - tablets and liquid
- [thioridazine](#) (Aldazine) - tablets
- [fluphenazine hydrochloride](#) (Anatensol) - liquid
- [pericyazine](#) (Neulactil) - tablets
- [trifluoperazine](#) (Stelazine) - tablets, slow release capsules (Stelazine Spansules), liquid
- [haloperidol](#) (Serenace) - tablet, liquid, intramuscular or intravenous injection
- [droperidol](#) (Droleptan) - intramuscular or intravenous injection
- [pimozide](#) (Orap) - tablet ([see comment](#))
- [zuclopenthixol dihydrochloride](#) (Clopixol) - tablet
- [zuclopenthixol acetate](#) (Clopixol-Acuphase - medium term (max. concentration 24-36 hours following) intramuscular injection

[Typical antipsychotics - depot](#)

- [flupenthixol decanoate](#) (Fluanxol Depot, Fluanxol Concentrated Depot)
- [fluphenazine decanoate](#) (Modecate)
- [haloperidol decanoate](#) (Haldol Decanoate)

- [zuclopenthixol decanoate](#) (Clopixol Depot)

Remember that many of the typical antipsychotics or the "neuroleptics" are in the class of chemicals known as "[phenothiazines](#)". Other commonly used medications that are phenothiazines but not generally used as antipsychotics (though nevertheless can have similar side-effects as the typical antipsychotics) include:

- [promethazine](#) (Phenergan, various over-the-counter cough mixtures)
- [prochlorperzine](#) (Stemetil, Stemezine)

Resource: [Antipsychotics in Australia](#)

Updated: Michael Tam (12 September 2006)

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