

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION INDICATIONS AND USAGE

SEROQUEL is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia. The efficacy of SEROQUEL in schizophrenia was established in short-term (6-week) controlled trials of schizophrenic inpatients (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). The effectiveness of SEROQUEL in the treatment of schizophrenia in outpatients has not been systematically evaluated in controlled trials. Therefore, the physician who elects to use SEROQUEL for extended periods should periodically re-evaluate the long-term usefulness of the drug for the individual patient.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

SEROQUEL is contraindicated in individuals with a known hypersensitivity to this medication or any of its ingredients.

WARNINGS

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS): A potentially fatal symptom complex sometimes referred to as Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) has been reported in association with administration of antipsychotic drugs. Two possible cases of NMS (2/2387 (0.1%)) have been reported in clinical trials with SEROQUEL. Clinical manifestations of NMS are hyperreflexia, muscle rigidity, altered mental status, and evidence of autonomic instability (irregular pulse or blood pressure, tachycardia, diaphoresis, and cardiac dysrhythmia). Additional signs may include elevated creatine phosphokinase, myoglobinuria (rhabdomyolysis) and acute renal failure. The diagnostic evaluation of patients with this syndrome is complicated. In arriving at a diagnosis, it is important to exclude cases where the clinical presentation includes both serious medical illness (e.g., pneumonia, systemic infection, etc.) and untreated or inadequately treated extrapyramidal signs and symptoms (EPS). Other important considerations in the differential diagnosis include central anticholinergic toxicity, heat stroke, drug fever and primary central nervous system (CNS) pathology. The management of NMS should include: 1) immediate discontinuation of antipsychotic drugs and other drugs not essential to concurrent therapy; 2) intensive symptomatic treatment and medical support; and 3) treatment of any concomitant serious medical problems for which specific treatments are available. There is no general agreement about specific pharmacological treatment regimens for NMS. If a patient requires antipsychotic drug treatment after recovery from NMS, the potential reinitiation of drug therapy should be carefully considered. The patient should be carefully monitored since recurrences of NMS have been reported. **Tardive Dyskinesia:** A syndrome of potentially irreversible, involuntary, dyskinetic movements may develop in patients treated with antipsychotic drugs. Although the prevalence of the syndrome appears to be highest among the elderly, especially elderly women, it is impossible to rely upon prevalence estimates to predict, at the inception of antipsychotic treatment, which patients are likely to develop the syndrome. Whether antipsychotic drug products differ in their potential to cause tardive dyskinesia is unknown. The risk of developing tardive dyskinesia and the likelihood that it will become irreversible are believed to increase as the cumulative dose and the total cumulative dose of antipsychotic drugs administered to the patient increase. However, the syndrome can develop, although much less commonly, after relatively brief treatment periods at low doses. There is no known treatment for established cases of tardive dyskinesia, although the syndrome may remit, partially or completely, if antipsychotic treatment is withdrawn. Antipsychotic treatment, itself, however, may not suppress (and may even exacerbate) the syndrome. The syndrome and thereby may possibly mask the underlying process. The effect that symptomatic suppression has upon the long-term course of the syndrome is unknown. Given these considerations, SEROQUEL should be prescribed in a manner that is most likely to minimize the occurrence of tardive dyskinesia. Chronic antipsychotic treatment should generally be reserved for patients who appear to suffer from a chronic illness that is best treated with antipsychotic medication. If an alternative, equally effective, but potentially less harmful treatment is not available or appropriate, in patients who do require chronic treatment, the smallest dose and the shortest duration of treatment producing a satisfactory clinical response should be sought. The need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear in a patient on SEROQUEL, drug discontinuation should be considered. However, some patients may require treatment with SEROQUEL despite the presence of the syndrome.

PRECAUTIONS: General

Orthostatic Hypotension: SEROQUEL may induce orthostatic hypotension associated with dizziness, tachycardia and, in some patients, syncope, especially during the initial dose titration period, probably reflecting its α_1 -adrenergic antagonist properties. Syncope has been reported in 1% (22/2182) of patients treated with SEROQUEL, compared with 0% (0/206) on placebo and about 0.5% (2/420) on active control drugs. The risk of orthostatic hypotension and syncope may be minimized by limiting the initial dose to 25 mg bid. If hypotension occurs during titration to the target dose, a return to the previous dose in the titration schedule is appropriate. SEROQUEL should be used with particular caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease, including congestive heart failure, aortic stenosis, heart disease, heart failure or conduction abnormalities, cerebrovascular disease or conditions which would predispose patients to hypotension (dehydration, hypovolemia and treatment with antihypertensive medications). **Cataracts:** The development of cataracts was observed in association with quetiapine treatment in chronic dog studies (See Animal Toxicology). Lens changes have also been observed in maximum tolerated dose (MTD) studies in monkeys. In patients treated with SEROQUEL, however, no lens changes have been established. Nevertheless, the possibility of lenticular changes cannot be excluded at this time. Therefore, examination of the lens by methods adequate to detect cataract formation, such as slit lamp exam or other appropriately sensitive methods, is recommended at initiation of treatment or shortly thereafter, and at 6-month intervals during chronic treatment. **Seizures:** During clinical studies, seizures occurred in 0.8% (18/2387) of patients treated with SEROQUEL compared to 0% (0/206) on placebo and 0.5% (2/420) on active control drugs. As with other antipsychotics SEROQUEL should be used cautiously in patients with a history of seizures or with conditions that potentially lower the seizure threshold, e.g., Alzheimer's dementia. Conditions that lower the seizure threshold may be more prevalent in a population of 65 years or older. **Hypotension:** SEROQUEL was studied with a reversal of the effects on blood pressure in total and free thyroxine (T4) of approximately 20% at the higher end of the therapeutic dose range and was maximal in the first two to four weeks of treatment and maintained without adaptation or progression during more chronic therapy. Generally, these changes were of no clinical significance and TSH was unchanged in most patients, and levels of T4 were unchanged. In nearly all cases, cessation of SEROQUEL treatment was associated with a reversal of the effects on blood pressure (14, respectively) and T4 (12, respectively). About 10% (23/238) of SEROQUEL patients did experience TSH increases. Six of the patients with TSH increases needed replacement thyroid treatment. **Cholesterol and Triglyceride Elevations:** In a pool of 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials, SEROQUEL-treated patients had increases from baseline in cholesterol and triglyceride of 11% and 17%, respectively, compared to slight decreases for placebo patients. These changes were only weakly related to the increases in weight observed in SEROQUEL-treated patients. **Hyperprolactinemia:** Although an elevation of prolactin levels was not demonstrated in clinical trials with SEROQUEL, increased prolactin levels were observed in rat studies with this compound, and were associated with an increase in mammary gland neoplasia in rats (see Carcinogenesis). Tissue culture experiments indicate that approximately one-third of human breast cancers are prolactin dependent in vitro. A potential importance of the increase in prolactin levels in humans is contemplated in a patient with previously detected breast cancer. Although disturbances such as galactorrhea, amenorrhea, gynecostasia, and impotence have been reported with prolactin-elevating compounds, the clinical significance of elevated serum prolactin levels is unknown for most patients. Neither clinical studies nor epidemiologic studies conducted to date have shown an association between chronic administration of this class of drugs and tumorogenesis in humans; the available evidence is considered too limited to be conclusive at this time. **Transaminase Elevations:** Asymptomatic, transient and reversible elevations in serum transaminases (primarily ALT) have been reported. The proportions of patients with transaminase elevations of > 3 times the upper limits of the normal reference range in a pool of 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials were approximately 6% for SEROQUEL and 1% for placebo. These elevations were generally elevated usually occurred within the first 3 weeks of drug treatment and promptly returned to pre-study levels with ongoing treatment with SEROQUEL. **Potential for Cognitive and Motor Impairment:** Somnolence was a commonly reported adverse event reported in patients treated with SEROQUEL, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration. In the 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials, somnolence was reported in 6% of patients on SEROQUEL compared to 1% of placebo patients. Since SEROQUEL has the potential to impair judgment, thinking, or motor skills, patients should be cautioned about performing activities requiring mental alertness, such as operating a motor vehicle (including automobiles) or operating hazardous machinery until they are reasonably certain that SEROQUEL therapy does not affect them adversely. **Pruritus:** One case of pruritus in a patient receiving SEROQUEL has been reported. The pruritus was not related to the prescription of SEROQUEL for patients who will be experiencing conditions which may contribute to an elevation in core body temperature, e.g., exercising strenuously, exposure to extreme heat, receiving concomitant medication with anticholinergic activity, or being subject to dehydration. **Dysphagia:** Esophageal dysmotility and aspiration

SEROQUEL® (quetiapine fumarate) Tablets

have been associated with antipsychotic drug use. Aspiration pneumonia is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in elderly patients, in particular those with advanced Alzheimer's dementia. SEROQUEL and other antipsychotic drugs should be used with caution in patients who are prescribed SEROQUEL. **Orthostatic Hypotension:** The possibility of a suicide attempt is inherent in schizophrenia and close supervision of high risk patients should accompany drug therapy. Prescriptions for SEROQUEL should be written for the smallest quantity of tablets consistent with good patient management in order to reduce the risk of overdose. **Use in Patients with Concomitant Illness:** Clinical experience with SEROQUEL in patients with certain concomitant systemic diseases is limited. Caution should be exercised if SEROQUEL is used to any appreciable extent in patients with a recent history of myocardial infarction or unstable heart disease. Patients with these diagnoses were excluded from premarketing clinical studies. Because of the risk of orthostatic hypotension with SEROQUEL, caution should be observed in cardiac patients (see Orthostatic Hypotension). **Information for Patients:** Physicians are advised to discuss the following issues with patients before they begin treatment with SEROQUEL. **Orthostatic Hypotension:** Patients should be advised of the risk of orthostatic hypotension, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration, and also at times of re-initiating treatment or increases in dose. **Interference with Cognitive and Motor Performance:** Since somnolence was a commonly reported adverse event associated with SEROQUEL treatment, patients should be advised of the risk of somnolence, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration. Patients should be cautioned about performing any activity requiring mental alertness, such as operating a motor vehicle (including automobiles) or operating hazardous machinery, until they are reasonably certain that SEROQUEL therapy does not affect them adversely. **Pregnancy:** Patients should be advised to notify their physician if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy. **Nursing:** Patients should be advised not to breast feed or to breast feed their infants if they are taking SEROQUEL. **Alcohol:** Patients should be advised to avoid consuming alcoholic beverages while taking SEROQUEL. **Heat Exposure and Dehydration:** Patients should be advised regarding appropriate care in avoiding overheating and dehydration. **Laboratory Tests:** No special laboratory tests are recommended. **Interactions:** The risks of using SEROQUEL in combination with other drugs have not been extensively evaluated in systematic studies. Given the primary CNS effects of SEROQUEL, caution should be used when it is taken in combination with other centrally acting drugs. SEROQUEL potentiated the cognitive and motor effects of alcohol in a clinical trial in subjects with selected psychotic disorders, and alcoholic beverages should be avoided while taking SEROQUEL. Because of its potential to induce hypotension, SEROQUEL may interact with other antihypertensive agents. SEROQUEL may antagonize the effects of levodopa and dopamine agonists. **Effect of Other Drugs on SEROQUEL Phenytoin:** Coadministration of quetiapine (250 mg tid) and phenytoin (100 mg tid) increased the mean oral clearance of quetiapine by 1.5-fold. Increased doses of SEROQUEL may be required to maintain control of symptoms of schizophrenia in patients receiving phenytoin. **Phenytoin:** The risks of using SEROQUEL in combination with other drugs have not been extensively evaluated in systematic studies. 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The most common adverse events associated with the use of SEROQUEL are dizziness (10%), postural hypotension (7%), dry mouth (7%), and dyspepsia (6%). The majority of adverse events are mild or moderate. In 3- to 6-week, placebo-controlled trials, the incidence of somnolence was 18% with SEROQUEL vs 11% with placebo.

As with all antipsychotic medications, prescribing should be consistent with the need to minimize the risk of tardive dyskinesia, seizures, and orthostatic hypotension.

As with all antipsychotic medications, a rare condition referred to as neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) has been reported.

*Extrapyramidal symptoms.

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