

# CLOZAPINE Potential Drug Interactions

Clozapine prescribing information for health professionals

## Potential to Increase Clozapine Levels

- SSRIs e.g. fluvoxamine (very large effect), fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline (large doses)
- Ciprofloxacin
- Cimetidine
- Some macrolide antibiotics e.g. erythromycin, clarithromycin, azithromycin
- Caffeine (large doses)

## Potential to Decrease Clozapine Levels

- Carbamazepine
- Rifampicin
- St Johns Wort
- Omeprazole
- Phenytoin
- Phenobarbitone

## Potential to Depress Bone Marrow

- Carbamazepine
- Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole
- Nitrofurantoin
- Cytotoxic medication
- Immunosuppressant medication

## Potential to Depress Respiration

- Benzodiazepines (esp. large parenteral doses or at start of therapy)

## Potential for Anticholinergic Side Effects

(e.g. constipation, urinary retention, delirium)

- Anticholinergic TCAs e.g. amitriptyline, dothiepin
- Anticholinergic antipsychotics e.g. chlorpromazine, pericyazine, quetiapine
- EPSE medication e.g. benzhexol, benztropine, biperiden
- Sedating antihistamines e.g. diphenhydramine, cyproheptadine, promethazine, trimeprazine
- Gastrointestinal antispasmodics e.g. atropine, hyoscine

## Potential for Hypotension

- Antihypertensives
- TCAs
- Some antipsychotics e.g. chlorpromazine, pericyazine, trifluoperazine, risperidone (initially), quetiapine (initially)

## Potential for changes due to smoking

- Starting or stopping smoking can cause dramatic changes in clozapine blood levels
- Prescription medications used for smoking cessation have been associated with destabilisation of mental state in some patients. Consider a strategic approach in consultation with the psychiatrist