

Quetia tablets

quetiapine fumarate

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about Quetia tablets. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of you taking Quetia against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Quetia are used for

Quetia belongs to a group of medicines called antipsychotics.

It helps to correct chemical imbalances in the brain and is used to treat conditions such as:

- schizophrenia, an illness with disturbances in thinking, feelings and behaviour
- bipolar disorder, an illness in which there are sustained mood swings either up (mania) or down (depression). During mania, patients experience episodes of irritability. During depression, patients may feel depressed or guilty, lack energy, lose their appetite and have trouble sleeping.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why it has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may prescribe this medicine for another reason.

You may find it helpful to tell a friend or relative that you are suffering from these symptoms, and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your symptoms are getting worse, or if they are worried about any other changes in your behaviour.

It is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take it

When you must not take it

Do not take Quetia if you have an allergy to:

- quetiapine, the active ingredient in Quetia tablets
- any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin or you may feel faint.

Do not give Quetia tablets to children or adolescents unless recommended by your doctor.

The effects of Quetia have only been studied in children aged between 10 and 17 years with mania and in children aged between 13 and 17 years with schizophrenia. There is not enough information on its effects in children

to recommend its use in other age groups or for other conditions.

Quetia, as with other anti-psychotic medicines, is recommended for use with caution in the elderly and is not approved for treatment of dementia and behavioural disturbances. In clinical studies with this group of medicines for the treatment of dementia and behavioural disturbances in the elderly, have suggested an increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events including stroke, and increased mortality risk for elderly patients has been reported.

Do not take Quetia after the expiry date printed on the pack.

Do not take this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure whether you should start taking Quetia tablets.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you have any allergies to:

- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:

- heart or blood vessel problems or a family history of heart or blood vessel problems including low blood pressure, stroke, problems with your circulation or any condition that affects blood flow to the brain, problems with the way your heart beats or a history of heart attack.
- liver problems
- diabetes (or a family history of diabetes). Patients with diabetes or who have a higher chance of diabetes should have their blood sugar checked before and during treatment with Quetia tablets.
- epilepsy (seizures or fits)
- dementia or related behavioural disorders (especially in elderly patients)
- low white blood cell count
- sleep apnoea - a condition where you stop breathing for short periods during your normal nightly sleep
- urinary retention (a condition where you can't completely empty your bladder)
- an enlarged prostate
- a blockage in your intestines
- increased pressure inside your eyes or glaucoma
- history of alcohol or drug abuse.

Tell your doctor or mental health professional if you have any mental/mood changes or suicidal thoughts.

Depression and other mental illnesses can increase the risk of suicide. It is important to discuss all the risks of treating depression and mental illness as well as the risks of not treating it. You should discuss all treatment choices with your doctor, not just the use of antidepressants.

Patients (and caregivers of patients) need to monitor for any worsening of their condition

and/or the emergence of thoughts of suicide or suicidal behaviour or thoughts of harming themselves and to seek medical advice immediately if these symptoms present.

Do not take Quetia tablets if you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor says so. Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits involved.

It is not known if it is safe for you to take it while you are pregnant. However, if you need to take it during your pregnancy, the doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking it with you.

It is recommended that you do not breastfeed while taking it, as it is not known whether it passes into breast milk.

Your doctor may want to take some tests (e.g. blood tests, blood pressure, weight or height measurements) before starting you on this medicine. These tests may help to prevent side effects.

Tell your doctor if you are lactose intolerant.

Quetia tablets contain lactose.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Quetia may interfere with each other. These include:

- medicines used to treat anxiety, depression, mood swings, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or other mood disorders
- lorazepam; a medicine used to help you sleep
- phenytoin or carbamazepine; medicines for epilepsy
- medicines for high blood pressure (including diuretics or fluid tablets) or heart conditions
- some antibiotics such as rifampicin and erythromycin
- medicines used for fungal infections such as ketoconazole
- medicines for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- thioridazine; an antipsychotic medicines
- medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease
- stimulants such as amphetamines
- glucocorticoids; medicines used to treat inflammation
- medicines that have anti-cholinergic (muscarinic) effects.

These medicines may be affected by Quetia or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Quetia tablets.

If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell them before you take any Quetia tablets.

How to take it

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the pack, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how many tablets you will need to take each day and how long you need to take it. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

Quetia tablets are usually started as a low dose that will be gradually increased by your doctor. Your doctor will recommend a dose especially for you. This will depend on various factors including your age, condition being treated, other medical conditions (e.g. liver problems), other medicines you are taking and how you may react to Quetia tablets. Your doctor will monitor your condition and may change your dose depending on how you respond to it. Your doctor will use the lowest dose for the least amount of time to keep you well.

When to take it

Quetia tablets are taken once or twice a day depending on your condition. Your doctor will tell you how you should take Quetia tablets.

Swallow your Quetia tablets whole with a full glass of water.

You can take them with or without food.

How long to take it

Continue taking the tablets for as long as your doctor tells you.

Quetia helps control your condition but does not cure it. Therefore you must take Quetia every day.

Do not stop taking Quetia unless your doctor tells you to - even if you feel better.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose (within 6 hours), skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you have missed.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure what to do.

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (13 11 26) for advice or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too many Quetia tablets. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of overdose include feeling drowsy, sleepy, dizzy or experiencing fast heart beats.

While you are taking it

Things you must do

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking it.

If you are about to be started on any new medicines, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are taking it.

Tell your doctor or mental health professional immediately or go to the nearest hospital if you have any of the following suicidal thoughts or other mental/mood changes:

- thoughts or talk of death or suicide
- thoughts or talk of self-harm or harm to others
- any recent attempts of self-harm
- increase in aggressive behaviour, irritability or agitation
- worsening of depression.

Occasionally, the symptoms of depression may include thoughts of suicide or self-harm. These symptoms may continue or get worse during the early stages of treatment until the effect of the medicine becomes apparent. All mentions of suicide or violence must be taken seriously.

If you become pregnant while taking it, tell your doctor immediately.

If you plan to have surgery that needs a general anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking it.

If you need to have any medical tests (including urine drug screening) while you are taking it, tell your doctor.

It may affect the results of some tests.

Be sure to keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor will check your progress and may want to take some tests (e.g. blood tests, blood pressure, weight or height measurements) from time to time. These tests may help to prevent side effects.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking Quetia tablets or change the dosage, even if you are feeling better, without checking with your doctor.

If you stop taking it suddenly, your condition may worsen or your chance of getting an unwanted side effect may increase. To prevent this, your doctor may gradually reduce the amount of Quetia tablets you take each day before stopping completely.

Do not give it to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar or they have the same condition as you.

Do not take it to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not take any medicines that cause drowsiness while you are taking it, unless recommended by your doctor.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery, until you know how Quetia affect you.

It can make some people dizzy or sleepy. Make sure you know how you react to it before you do anything that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or sleepy. Children should be careful when riding bicycles or climbing trees.

If it makes you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint, be careful when getting up from a sitting or lying position.

Standing up slowly, especially when you get up from bed or chairs, will help your body get used to the change in position and blood pressure.

If this problem continues or gets worse, talk to your doctor.

Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking it.

Combining Quetia and alcohol can make you more sleepy or dizzy.

Your doctor may suggest you avoid alcohol while you are being treated with it.

Avoid getting over-heated or dehydrated. Do not over-exercise; in hot weather stay inside in a cool place, stay out of the sun, do not wear too much or heavy clothing and drink plenty of water. Keep warm in cool weather.

Quetia tablets may affect the way your body reacts to temperature changes.

Avoid drinking large quantities of grapefruit juice.

This medicine may be affected by grapefruit juice.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about these things if you think they may bother you.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking it.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects. Some side effects may be related to the dose of Quetia tablets or may be more likely to occur during long term treatment.

Therefore, it is important that you tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell, even if you think the problems are not connected with this medicine. Your doctor may then decide to adjust your dose or use a different medicine.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- feeling sleepy
- weight gain, increased appetite
- feeling weak
- dry mouth
- runny or stuffy nose (particularly in children)
- indigestion, upset stomach, constipation, vomiting (mainly in elderly)
- swelling of your hands, feet or ankles
- blurred vision
- abnormal dreams, nightmares
- irritability
- shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing and/or tightness in the chest
- fast or irregular heartbeats (palpitations).

These side effects are usually mild. Some of these side effects may go away after a while.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice the following:

- falling, feeling dizzy or faint on standing up
- difficulty in speaking
- difficulty swallowing
- rapid heart beat
- symptoms of high sugar levels in the blood (including passing large amounts of urine, excessive thirst, increase in appetite with a loss of weight, feeling tired, drowsy, weak, depressed, irritable and generally unwell)
- breast enlargement, unusual secretion of breast milk.

These are serious side effects. You may need medical attention.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- long lasting and painful erection
- fainting (particularly in children)
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- very marked drowsiness
- reduced consciousness
- abnormal muscle movements, including difficulty starting muscle movements, shaking, restlessness or muscle stiffness without pain.
- worm-like movements of the tongue or other uncontrolled movements of the tongue, mouth, cheeks or jaw which may progress to the arms and legs
- a sudden increase in body temperature, with sweating, or a fast heart beat
- fits (seizures)
- widespread skin rash that may include blistering, fever, swelling of the face and/or swollen lymph nodes (painful, warm, or red lump under your skin - often under your chin, on your neck, groin, armpit or behind your ear). These symptoms may also be associated with changes in your blood (eg white blood cell increase) or liver function. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)
- severe allergic reaction (may include severe difficulty breathing, shock, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, skin rash, hayfever, or you may feel faint)
- severe upper stomach pain, often with nausea and vomiting (particularly in patients with other risk factors such as gallstones, alcohol consumption and/or increased levels of certain fats within the blood). These are symptoms of pancreatitis
- Combination of fever, very marked drowsiness, muscle stiffness, marked increase in blood pressure or heartbeats and reduced consciousness (a disorder called "neuroleptic malignant syndrome").

These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Occasionally, Quetia tablets may be associated with changes in your liver function or blood (e.g. blood fat levels such

as cholesterol or triglycerides, blood sugar levels, blood pressure, thyroid hormone levels). These can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

After taking it

Storage

Keep Quetia tablets in the blister pack until it is time to take them.

If you take them out of the blister pack they will not keep as well.

Keep it in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on a window sill.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking Quetia tablets or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.

Product description

What Quetia tablets looks like

Quetia 25 is a pink coloured, round, biconvex film-coated tablet plain on both sides. PVC/Al blister pack sizes of 60 tablets.

Quetia 100 is a yellow coloured, round, biconvex film-coated tablet plain on both sides. PVC/Al blister pack sizes of 90 tablets.

Quetia 200 is a white to off white, round, biconvex film-coated tablet plain on both sides. PVC/Al blister pack sizes of 60 tablets.

Quetia 300 is a white to off white capsule shaped, biconvex film-coated tablet with '300' debossed on one side and plain on the other side. PVC/Al blister pack sizes of 60 tablets.

Ingredients

Active ingredient

Each Quetia tablet contains quetiapine fumarate as the active ingredient equivalent to quetiapine 25 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg or 300 mg.

Inactive ingredients

- lactose monohydrate
- sodium starch glycollate (type A)
- calcium hydrogen phosphate
- povidone
- microcrystalline cellulose
- magnesium stearate
- opadry complete film coating system 03B84929 pink (ARTG No.106711) [25 mg tablet only]

- opadry complete film coating system 03B52117 yellow (ARTG No.106712) [100 mg tablet only]
- hypromellose [200 mg, 300 mg tablets only]
- macrogol 400 [200 mg, 300 mg tablets only]
- titanium dioxide [200 mg, 300 mg tablets only].

This medicine contains sugars as lactose.

Quetia tablets do not contain gluten or sucrose.

Sponsor

Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd
15-17 Chapel Street
Cremorne VIC 3121

Australian registration numbers:
25 mg: AUST 204153
100 mg: AUST 204154
200 mg: AUST 204155
300 mg: AUST 204156.

This leaflet was revised in 19 January 2024.