

# Quetiapine

**About:** Atypical antipsychotic. Introduced in 1996. Some generics on market.

**AKA** Seroquel, Suzi-Q

**Uses** used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorders. Review evidence suggests that it is no more effective than other antipsychotics, though it has slightly lower level of negative symptoms.

**Route and Doses:** swallowed, slow or fast release tablets; slow induction up to typical dose of 300-450mg daily

**Mechanism of action:** Acts as an Antagonist (blocker) at several dopamine receptors, and also blocks key serotonin and adrenergic receptors. Acts as an agonist at 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptors, which may contribute to the drug's effects on reducing anxiety and in the treatment of major depressive episodes. Also works as an antihistamine.

**Law:** POM Not currently a CD in UK

**Risks:** lots of potential side effects, including drowsiness, heart rhythm and blood pressure issues, weight gain and bloating, pancreatic problems, suicidal ideation, digestive problems



**Interactions:** as may increase blood pressure and cause irregular heart-rate, use alongside stimulants or SCRAS could be risky.

**Misuse:** few antipsychotics are "sought after" but there seems to be a greater pattern of Quetiapine misuse than other antipsychotics. As it offers no euphoria, the primary reason seems to be it offers significant drowsiness, and so may be misused in place of benzos, Z-Drugs or other depressants when these are hard to source.