

## Package leaflet: Information for the user

Quetiapine 25 mg film-coated tablets  
Quetiapine 100 mg film-coated tablets  
Quetiapine 150 mg film-coated tablets  
Quetiapine 200 mg film-coated tablets  
Quetiapine 300 mg film-coated tablets

Quetiapine

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

### **What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Quetiapine is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Quetiapine
3. How to take Quetiapine
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Quetiapine
6. Contents of the pack and other information

### **1. What Quetiapine is and what it is used for**

Quetiapine contains a substance called quetiapine. This belongs to a group of medicines called anti-psychotics.

Quetiapine can be used to treat several illnesses, such as:

- Bipolar depression: where you feel sad. You may find that you feel depressed, feel guilty, lack energy, lose your appetite or can't sleep
- Mania: where you may feel very excited, elated, agitated, enthusiastic or hyperactive or have poor judgment including being aggressive or disruptive
- Schizophrenia: where you may hear or feel things that are not there, believe things that are not true or feel unusually suspicious, anxious, confused, guilty, tense or depressed.

Your doctor may continue to prescribe Quetiapine even when you are feeling better.

### **2. What you need to know before you take Quetiapine**

#### **Do not take Quetiapine**

- if you are allergic to quetiapine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you are taking any of the following medicines:
  - Some medicines for HIV
  - 'Azole' medicines (for fungal infections)
  - Erythromycin or clarithromycin (for infections)
  - Nefazodone (for depression).

Do not take Quetiapine if the above applies to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Quetiapine.

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Quetiapine.

Tell your doctor if:

- You or someone in your family, have or have had any heart problems, for example heart rhythm problems, weakening of the heart muscle or inflammation of the heart or if you are taking any medicines that may have an impact on the way your heart beats
- You have low blood pressure
- You have had a stroke, especially if you are elderly
- You have problems with your liver
- You have ever had a fit (seizure)
- You have diabetes or have a risk of getting diabetes. If you do, your doctor may check your blood sugar levels while you are taking Quetiapine
- You know that you have had low levels of white blood cells in the past (which may or may not have been caused by other medicines)
- You are an elderly person with dementia (loss of brain function). If you are, Quetiapine should not be taken because the group of medicines that Quetiapine belongs to may increase the risk of stroke, or in some cases the risk of death, in elderly people with dementia
- You or someone else in your family has a history of blood clots, as medicines like these have been associated with formation of blood clots
- You have a history of alcohol or drug abuse
- You have or have had a condition where you stop breathing for short periods during your normal nightly sleep (called “sleep apnoea”) and are taking medicines that slow down the normal activity of the brain (“depressants”)
- You have or have had a condition where you can’t completely empty your bladder (urinary retention), have an enlarged prostate, a blockage in your intestines, or increased pressure inside your eye. These conditions are sometimes caused by medicines (called “anti-cholinergics”) that affect the way nerve cells function in order to treat certain medical conditions.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following after taking Quetiapine

- A combination of fever, severe muscle stiffness, sweating or a lowered level of consciousness (a disorder called “neuroleptic malignant syndrome”). Immediate medical treatment may be needed.
- Uncontrollable movements, mainly of your face, tongue and jaw, facial grimacing, rapid eye blinking and uncontrollable movements of arms, legs, fingers and toes. These might be symptoms of ‘tardive dyskinesia’.
- Dizziness or a severe sense of feeling sleepy. This could increase the risk of accidental injury (fall), in elderly patients.
- Fits (seizures).
- A long-lasting and painful erection (priapism).

These conditions can be caused by this type of medicine.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- A fever, flu-like symptoms, sore throat, or any other infection, as this could be a result of a very low white blood cell count, which may require Quetiapine to be stopped and/or treatment to be given.
- Constipation along with persistent abdominal pain, or constipation which has not responded to treatment, as this may lead to a more serious blockage of the bowel.

### Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression

If you are depressed you may sometimes have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. These may be increased when first starting treatment, since these medicines all take time to work, usually about two weeks but sometimes longer. These thoughts may also be increased if you suddenly stop taking your medication. These thoughts may also be increased if you suddenly stop taking your medication. You may be more likely to think like this if you are a young adult. Information from clinical trials has shown an increased risk of suicidal thoughts and/or suicidal behaviour in young adults aged less than 25 years with depression.

If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away. You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed, and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour.

### **Weight gain**

Weight gain has been seen in patients taking Quetiapine. You and your doctor should check your weight regularly.

### **Children and adolescents**

Quetiapine is not for use in children and adolescents below 18 years of age.

### **Other medicines and Quetiapine**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

### Do not take Quetiapine if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Some medicines for HIV
- 'Azole' medicines (for fungal infections)
- Erythromycin or clarithromycin (for infections)
- Nefazodone (for depression).

### Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Epilepsy medicines (like phenytoin or carbamazepine)
- High blood pressure medicines
- Barbiturates, for difficulty sleeping)
- Thioridazine or Lithium (other anti-psychotic medicines)
- Medicines that have an impact on the way your heart beats, for example, drugs that can cause an imbalance in electrolytes (low levels of potassium or magnesium) such as diuretics (water pills) or certain antibiotics (drugs to treat infections)
- Medicines that can cause constipation
- Medicines (called "anti-cholinergics") that affect the way nerve cells function in order to treat certain medical conditions.

Before you stop taking any of your medicines, please talk to your doctor first.

### **Quetiapine with food, drink and alcohol**

Quetiapine can be taken with or without food.

Be careful how much alcohol you drink. This is because the combined effect of Quetiapine and alcohol can make you sleepy.

Do not drink grapefruit juice while you are taking Quetiapine. It can affect the way the medicine works.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

- You should not take Quetiapine during pregnancy unless this has been discussed with your doctor.
- Quetiapine should not be taken if you are breast-feeding.

The following symptoms which can represent withdrawal may occur in newborn babies of mothers that have used quetiapine in the last trimester (last three months of their pregnancy): shaking, muscle stiffness and/or weakness, sleepiness, agitation, breathing problems, and difficulty in feeding. If your baby develops any of these symptoms you may need to contact your doctor.

### **Driving and using machines**

Your tablets may make you feel sleepy. Do not drive or use any tools or machines until you know how the tablets affect you.

### **Quetiapine contains lactose**

Quetiapine contains lactose which is a type of sugar. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

### **Effect on urine drug screens**

If you are having a urine drug screen, taking Quetiapine may cause positive results for methadone or certain drugs for depression called tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) when some test methods are used, even though you may not be taking methadone or TCAs. If this happens, a more specific test can be performed.

## **3. How to take Quetiapine**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

### Dosage

Your doctor will decide on your starting dose. The maintenance dose (daily dose) will depend on your illness and needs but will usually be between 150 mg and 800 mg.

### Method of administration

- You will take your tablets once a day, at bedtime or twice a day, depending on your illness
- Swallow your tablets whole with a drink of water.
- You can take your tablets with or without food.
- Do not drink grapefruit juice while you are taking Quetiapine. It can affect the way the medicine works.
- Do not stop taking your tablets even if you feel better, unless your doctor tells you.

### Liver problems

If you have liver problems your doctor may change your dose.

### Elderly people

If you are elderly your doctor may change your dose.

### Use in children and adolescents

Quetiapine should not be used by children and adolescents aged under 18 years.

**If you take more Quetiapine than you should**

If you take more Quetiapine than prescribed by your doctor, you may feel sleepy, feel dizzy and experience abnormal heart beats. Contact your doctor or nearest hospital straight away. Keep the tablets with you.

**If you forget to take Quetiapine**

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time to take the next dose, wait until then. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

**If you stop taking Quetiapine**

Do not stop taking your tablets even if you are feeling better, unless your doctor tells you. If you suddenly stop taking Quetiapine you may be unable to sleep (insomnia), or you may feel sick (nausea), or you may experience headache, diarrhoea, being sick (vomiting), dizziness or irritability. Your doctor may suggest you reduce the dose gradually before stopping treatment.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

**4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**If any of the following occurs, stop taking Quetiapine and contact a doctor or go to the nearest hospital straight away, as you may need urgent medical attention:**

**Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Allergic reactions that may include raised lumps (weals), swelling of the skin and swelling around the mouth
- Fits or seizures
- Uncontrollable movements, mainly of your tongue, mouth and jaw, but also of arms, legs, fingers and toes, facial grimacing and rapid eye blinking. These might be symptoms of a condition called 'tardive dyskinesia'.
- If you become more prone to infections. This could be a sign of an abnormal decrease in some types of white blood cells in your blood (neutropenia).

**Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- A combination of high temperature (fever), sweating, stiff muscles, feeling very drowsy or faint, frequent change in blood pressure and fast heartbeat (a disorder called 'neuroleptic malignant syndrome')
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)
- A long-lasting and painful erection (priapism)
- Blood clots in the veins especially in the legs (symptoms include swelling, pain and redness in the leg), which may travel through blood vessels to the lungs causing chest pain and difficulty in breathing
- Inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis). Symptoms can include severe pain in the abdomen and back, nausea and vomiting.
- Combination of fever, flu-like symptoms, sore throat or any other infection with very low white blood cell count, a condition called agranulocytosis

**Very rare** (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- A severe allergic reaction (called anaphylaxis) which may cause difficulty in breathing or shock
- Rapid swelling of the skin, usually around the eyes, lips and throat (angioedema)
- A serious blistering condition of the skin, mouth, eyes and genitals (Stevens-Johnson syndrome)
- Abnormal muscle breakdown (rhabdomyolysis) with symptoms such as muscle pain, weakness and swelling which can lead to kidney problems (urine can become dark).

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Serious, sudden allergic reaction with symptoms such as fever and blisters on the skin and peeling of the skin (toxic epidermal necrolysis)
- Skin rash with irregular red spots (erythema multiforme)
- Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS). Widespread rash, high body temperature, liver enzyme elevations, blood abnormalities (eosinophilia), enlarged lymph nodes and other body organs involvement (Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms which is also known as DRESS or drug hypersensitivity syndrome). Stop using Quetiapine if you develop these symptoms and contact your doctor or seek medical attention immediately.

**Other possible side effects:**

**Very common** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Dizziness (may lead to falls), headache, dry mouth
- Feeling sleepy (this may go away with time, as you keep taking Quetiapine) (may lead to falls)
- Discontinuation symptoms (symptoms which occur when you stop taking Quetiapine) include not being able to sleep (insomnia), feeling sick (nausea), headache, diarrhoea, being sick (vomiting), dizziness and irritability. Gradual withdrawal over a period of at least 1 to 2 weeks is advisable
- Abnormal muscle movements. These include difficulty starting muscle movements, shaking, feeling restless or muscle stiffness without pain
- Changes in the amount of certain fats (triglycerides and cholesterol) in the blood
- Putting on weight
- Decreased levels of a certain protein in red blood cells (haemoglobin).

**Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Rapid heartbeat
- Feeling like your heart is pounding, racing or has skipped beats
- Shortness of breath
- Low blood pressure when standing up, which may result in dizziness or feeling faint (may lead to falls)
- Constipation, upset stomach (indigestion)
- Vomiting (mainly in the elderly)
- Abnormal dreams and nightmares
- Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression
- Feeling more hungry
- Disturbance in speech and language
- Increases in the amount of the hormone prolactin in the blood. Increases in the hormone prolactin could in rare cases lead to the following:
  - Men and women to have swelling of breasts and unexpectedly produce breast milk.
  - Women to have no monthly period or irregular periods.
- Blurred vision
- Feeling irritated
- Fever
- Increased levels of liver enzymes measured in the blood
- Changes in the amount of thyroid hormones in your blood
- Decrease in number of certain blood cells
- Increased levels of sugar in the blood
- Feeling weak
- Swelling of arms or legs.

**Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Unpleasant sensation in the legs (also called restless legs syndrome)
- Difficulty swallowing
- Change in electrical activity of the heart seen on ECG (QT prolongation)
- Diabetes
- Sexual dysfunction
- Decreased number of red blood cells (anaemia) or platelets in the blood (thrombocytopenia)
  
- Decrease in the amount of sodium in the blood (hyponatraemia)
- A slower than normal heart rate which may occur when starting treatment and which may be associated with low blood pressure and fainting
- Stuffy nose
- Fainting (may lead to falls)
- Difficulty in passing urine
- Worsening of pre-existing diabetes

**Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Swelling of breasts and unexpected production of breast milk (galactorrhoea)
- Menstrual disorder
- A condition (called “metabolic syndrome”) where you may have a combination of 3 or more of the following: an increase in fat around your abdomen, a decrease in “good cholesterol” (HDL-C), an increase in a type of fat in your blood called triglycerides, high blood pressure and an increase in your blood sugar
- Walking, talking, eating or other activities while you are asleep
- Body temperature decreases (hypothermia)
- Bowel obstruction
- Increased blood creatine phosphokinase (a substance from the muscles).

**Very rare** (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people):

- Inappropriate secretion of a hormone that controls urine volume can cause low sodium levels in your blood. That can lead to symptoms such as headache, nausea, confusion and weakness.

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Symptoms of withdrawal may occur in newborn babies of mothers that have used quetiapine during their pregnancy.

The class of medicines to which Quetiapine belongs can cause heart rhythm problems, which can be serious and in severe cases may be fatal.

Some side effects are only seen when a blood test is taken. These include changes in the amount of certain fats (triglycerides and total cholesterol) or sugar in the blood, changes in the amount of thyroid hormones in your blood, increased liver enzymes, decreases in the number of certain types of blood cells, decrease in the amount of red blood cells, increased blood creatine phosphokinase (a substance in the muscles), decrease in the amount of sodium in the blood and increases in the amount of the hormone prolactin in the blood. Increases in the hormone prolactin could in rare cases lead to the following:

- Men and women to have swelling of breasts and unexpectedly produce breast milk.
- Women to have no monthly period or irregular periods.

Your doctor may ask you to have blood tests from time to time.

### **Side effects in children and adolescents**

The same side effects that may occur in adults may also occur in children and adolescents.

The following side effects have been seen more often in children and adolescents or have not been seen in adults:

**Very common** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- Increase in the amount of a hormone called prolactin, in the blood. Increases in the hormone prolactin could in rare cases lead to the following:
  - Boys and girls to have swelling of breasts and unexpectedly produce breast milk.
  - Girls to have no monthly period or irregular periods.
- Increased appetite
- Vomiting
- Abnormal muscle movements. These include difficulty starting muscle movements, shaking, feeling restless or muscle stiffness without pain.
- Increase in blood pressure

**Common** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Feeling weak, fainting (may lead to falls).
- Stuffy nose.
- Feeling irritated.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRAs Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL – Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6767836. Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie); E-mail: [medsafety@hpra.ie](mailto:medsafety@hpra.ie). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Quetiapine**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton, label and blister after 'EXP'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Quetiapine contains**

- The active substance is quetiapine. Quetiapine film-coated tablets contain 25 mg, 100 mg, 150 mg, 200 mg or 300 mg quetiapine (as quetiapine fumarate).
- The other ingredients are:
  - Tablet core:* Microcrystalline cellulose, povidone K29-32, calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, sodium starch glycolate (type A), lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate.
  - Tablet coating:* Hypromellose 6cP (E464), titanium dioxide (E171), lactose monohydrate, macrogol 3350, triacetin, iron oxide yellow (E172) (*in 25 mg, 100 mg and 150 mg tablets*) and iron oxide red (E172) (*only in the 25 mg tablets*).

### **What Quetiapine looks like and contents of the pack**

Quetiapine 25 mg film-coated tablet is round, 5.5 mm in diameter, biconvex, light orange and engraved with "Q" on one side.

Quetiapine 100 mg film-coated tablet is round, 8.5 mm in diameter, biconvex, yellow and engraved with "Q" on one side.

Quetiapine 150 mg film-coated tablet is oval with dimensions of 6.9 mm x 13.8 mm, biconvex, pale yellow and engraved with "Q" on one side.

Quetiapine 200 mg film-coated tablet is oval with dimensions of 16 mm x 8.2 mm, biconvex, white and engraved with “Q” on one side.

Quetiapine 300 mg film-coated tablet is oval with dimensions of 19 mm x 7.6 mm, biconvex, white and engraved with “Q” on one side and “300” on the other side.

*Pack sizes:*

**Blisters:**

Quetiapine 25 mg film-coated tablets: 6, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 tablets

Quetiapine 100 mg film-coated tablets: 6, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 tablets

Quetiapine 150 mg film-coated tablets: 6, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 tablets

Quetiapine 200 mg film-coated tablets: 6, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 tablets

Quetiapine 300 mg film-coated tablets: 6, 10, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 tablets

**Tablet containers:**

Quetiapine 25 mg film-coated tablets: 100, 250 tablets

Quetiapine 100 mg film-coated tablets: 100, 250 tablets

Quetiapine 150 mg film-coated tablets: 100, 250 tablets

Quetiapine 200 mg film-coated tablets: 100, 250 tablets

Quetiapine 300 mg film-coated tablets: 60, 100, 250 tablets

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

*Marketing Authorisation Holder:*

Accord Healthcare Ireland Ltd, Euro House, Euro Business Park, Little Island, Cork T45 K857, Ireland

*Manufacturer:*

Actavis Ltd, BLB 016 Bulebel Industrial Estate, Zejtun ZTN 3000, Malta

Actavis hf., Reykjavikurvegur 78, IS-220 Hafnarfjordur, Iceland

Manufacturing Packaging Farmaca (MPF) B.V. Appelhof 13, Oudehaske, 8465RX, Netherlands

Manufacturing Packaging Farmaca (MPF) B.V. Neptunus 12, Herenveen, 8448CN, Netherlands

Actavis Group PTC ehf. Reykjavikurvegur 78, IS-220 Hafnarfjordur, Iceland

**This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:**

Ireland                      Quetiapine

United Kingdom      Quetiapine 25mg, 100mg, 150mg, 200mg, 300mg Film coated tablets

**This leaflet was last revised in May 2019**