

Medicinal products known to have a substantial potential to depress bone marrow function should not be used concurrently with Clozaril (see section WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). As with other antipsychotics, caution should be exercised when Clozaril is prescribed with medicines known to increase the QTc interval, or causing electrolyte imbalance.

7.1.2 Observed pharmacodynamic interactions to be considered

Particular caution is recommended when Clozaril therapy is initiated in patients who are receiving (or have recently received) a benzodiazepine or any other psychotropic agent, as these patients may have an increased risk of circulatory collapse, which, on rare occasions, can be profound and may lead to cardiac and/or respiratory arrest.

Concomitant use of lithium or other CNS-active agents may increase the risk of development of neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS).

Rare but serious reports of seizures, including onset of seizures in non-epileptic patients, and isolated cases of delirium where Clozaril was co-administered with valproic acid have been reported. These effects are possibly due to a pharmacodynamic interaction, the mechanism of which has not been determined.

7.1.3 Anticipated pharmacodynamic interactions to be considered

Clozapine may enhance the central effects of alcohol, MAO inhibitors and CNS depressants such as narcotics, antihistamines, and benzodiazepines.

Because of the possibility of additive effects, caution is essential when substances possessing anticholinergic, hypotensive, or respiratory depressant effects are given concomitantly.

Owing to its anti-alpha-adrenergic properties, clozapine may reduce the blood pressure-increasing effect of norepinephrine or other predominantly alpha-adrenergic agents and reverse the pressor effect of epinephrine.

7.1.4 Pharmacokinetic-related interactions

Clozapine is a substrate for many CYP 450 isoenzymes, in particular 1A2 and 3A4. The risk of metabolic interactions caused by an effect on an individual isoenzyme is therefore minimized. Nevertheless, caution is called for in patients receiving concomitant treatment with other substances that are either inhibitors or inducers of these enzymes.

No clinically relevant interactions have been observed thus far with tricyclic antidepressants, phenothiazines or type 1c anti-arrhythmics, which are known to bind to cytochrome P450 2D6.

7.1.5 Observed pharmacokinetic interactions to be considered

Concomitant administration of substances known to induce cytochrome P450 enzymes may decrease the plasma levels of clozapine.

- Substances known to induce the activity of 3A4 and with reported interactions with clozapine include, for instance, carbamazepine, phenytoin and rifampicin.

Concomitant administration of substances known to inhibit the activity of cytochrome P450 isozymes may increase the plasma levels of clozapine.

- Substances known to inhibit the activity of the major isoenzymes involved in the metabolism of clozapine and with reported interactions include, for instance, cimetidine, erythromycin (3A4), fluvoxamine (1A2), perazine (1A2) ciprofloxacin (1A2) and oral contraceptives (1A2, 3A4, 2C19).
- The plasma concentration of clozapine is increased by caffeine (1A2) intake and decreased by nearly 50% following a 5-day caffeine-free period.
- Elevated clozapine plasma concentrations also have been reported in patients receiving the substances in combination with selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs) such as paroxetine (1A2), sertraline, fluoxetine or citalopram.

7.1.6 Anticipated pharmacokinetic interactions to be considered

Concomitant administration of substances known to induce cytochrome P450 enzymes may decrease the plasma levels of clozapine.

- Known inducers of 1A2 include, for instance, omeprazole and tobacco smoke. In cases of sudden cessation of tobacco smoking, the plasma clozapine concentration may be increased, thus leading to an increase in adverse effects.

Concomitant administration of substances known to inhibit the activity of cytochrome P450 isozymes may increase the plasma levels of clozapine.

- Potent inhibitors of CYP3A, such as azole antimycotics and protease inhibitors, could potentially also increase clozapine plasma concentrations; no interactions have been reported to date, however.

8. WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING POTENTIAL, PREGNANCY, BREAST- FEEDING, AND FERTILITY

8.1 Women of child-bearing potential and contraceptive measures

Some female patients treated with antipsychotics other than Clozaril may become amenorrheic. A return to normal menstruation may occur as a result of switching from other antipsychotics to Clozaril. Adequate contraceptive measures must therefore be ensured in women of childbearing potential.

8.2 Pregnancy

Reproduction studies in animals have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to clozapine. However, the safe use of Clozaril in pregnant women has not been established. Therefore, Clozaril should be used in pregnancy only if the expected benefit clearly outweighs any potential risk.

8.2.1 Non-teratogenic effects

Neonates exposed to antipsychotic drugs, during the third trimester of pregnancy are at risk for extrapyramidal and/or withdrawal symptoms following delivery. There have been reports of agitation, hyperreflexia, hypotonia, tremor, somnolence, respiratory distress and feeding disorder in these neonates. These complications have varied in severity; while in some cases symptoms have been self-limited, in other cases neonates have required intensive care unit support and prolonged hospitalization.

Antipsychotic drugs, including Clozaril, should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

8.3 Breast-feeding

Animal studies suggest that clozapine is excreted in breast milk and has an effect in the suckling offspring. Therefore, mothers receiving Clozaril should not breast-feed.

9 Driving and using machines

Owing to the ability of Clozaril to cause sedation and lower the seizure threshold, activities such as driving or operating machinery should be avoided, especially during the initial weeks of treatment.

10 ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

10.1 Summary of the safety profile

The adverse effects of clozapine are most often predictable based on its pharmacological properties with the exception of agranulocytosis (see section WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). The most serious adverse reactions experienced with clozapine are agranulocytosis, seizure, cardiovascular effects and fever (see section WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS). The most common side effects are drowsiness/sedation, dizziness, tachycardia, constipation, and hypersalivation.

Data from the clinical trials experience showed that a varying proportion of clozapine-treated patients (from 7.1 to 15.6%) were discontinued due to an adverse event, including only those that could be reasonably attributed to clozapine. The more common events considered to be causes of discontinuation were leukopenia; somnolence; dizziness (excluding vertigo); and psychotic disorder.

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are listed by MedDRA system organ class (see Table 3). Within each system organ class, the adverse reactions are ranked by frequency, using the following convention: Very common (≥1/10), common (≥1/100, <1/10), uncommon (≥ 1/1,000, <1/100), rare (≥1/10,000, <1/1,000), very rare (<1/10,000), including isolated reports. Within each frequency grouping, adverse drug reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 3: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Experience Frequency estimate from Spontaneous and Clinical Trial Reports

Blood and lymphatic system disorders	
Common	Leukopenia/decreased WBC/neutropenia, eosinophilia, leukocytosis
Uncommon	Agranulocytosis
Rare	Anaemia
Very rare	Thrombocytopenia, thrombocythemia
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	
Common	Weight gain
Rare	Diabetes aggravated impaired glucose tolerance, new onset diabetes
Very rare	Hyperosmolar coma, ketoacidosis, severe hyperglycemia, hypercholesterolemia, hypertriglyceridemia
Psychiatric disorders	
Common	Dysarthria
Uncommon	Dysphemia
Rare	Agitation, restlessness
Nervous system disorders	
Very common	Drowsiness/sedation, dizziness
Common	Seizures/convulsions/myoclonic jerks, extrapyramidal symptoms, akathisia, tremor, rigidity, headache
Uncommon	Neuroleptic malignant syndrome
Rare	Confusion, delirium
Very rare	Tardive dyskinesia, obsessive compulsive symptoms
Eye disorders	
Common	Blurred vision
Cardiac disorders	
Very common	Tachycardia
Common	ECG changes
Rare	Circulatory collapse, arrhythmias, myocarditis, pericarditis
Very rare	Cardiomyopathy, Cardiac arrest
Vascular disorders	
Common	Syncope, postural hypotension, hypertension
Rare	Thromboembolism
Respiratory disorders	
Rare	Aspiration of ingested food, pneumonia and lower respiratory tract infection which may be fatal
Very rare	Respiratory depression/arrest
Gastrointestinal disorders	
Very common	Constipation, hypersalivation
Common	Nausea, vomiting, dry mouth
Rare	Dysphagia
Very rare	Intestinal obstruction/ileus/faecal impaction, parotid gland enlargement
Hepatobiliary disorders	
Common	Elevated liver enzymes
Rare	Pancreatitis, hepatitis, cholestatic jaundice
Very rare	Fulminant hepatic necrosis
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	
Very rare	Skin reactions
Renal and urinary disorders	
Common	Urinary retention, urinary incontinence
Very rare	Interstitial nephritis
Reproductive system disorders	
Very rare	Priapism
General disorders	
Common	Benign hyperthermia, disturbances in sweating/temperature regulation, fever, fatigue
Very rare	Sudden unexplained death
Investigations	
Rare	Increased CPK

Very rare events of ventricular tachycardia, cardiac arrest and QT prolongation which may be associated with Torsades De Pointes have been observed although there is no conclusive causal relationship to the use of this medicine.

10.2 Adverse drug reactions from spontaneous reports and literature (frequency not known)

The following adverse drug reactions (ADRs) were derived from post-marketing experience with Clozaril via spontaneous case reports and literature cases and have been categorized according to MedDRA system organ class (see Table 4). Because these reactions have been reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size and are subject to confounding factors, these post-marketing ADRs have been categorized with a frequency of “not known” since it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency. Adverse drug reactions are listed according to system organ classes in MedDRA. Within each system organ class, ADRs are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 4: Adverse drug reactions from spontaneous reports and literature (frequency not known)

Infections and infestations
Sepsis
Immune system disorders
Drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), Angioedema, leukocytoclastic vasculitis
Endocrine disorders
Pseudophaeochromocytoma
Metabolism and nutrition disorders
Obesity
Psychiatric disorders
Somnambulism (sleep walking) and Sleep-related eating disorder
Nervous system disorders
Cholinergic syndrome, EEG changes, pleurothotonus, restless legs syndrome
Cardiac disorders
Myocardial infarction*, myocarditis*, chest pain/angina pectoris, palpitations, atrial fibrillation, mitral valve incompetence associated with clozapine related cardiomyopathy
Vascular disorders
Hypotension
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders
Pleural effusion, sleep apnoea syndrome, nasal congestion
Gastrointestinal disorders
Megacolon*, intestinal infarction/ischaeemia*, intestinal necrosis*, intestinal ulceration* and intestinal perforation*, diarrhoea, abdominal discomfort/heartburn/dyspepsia, colitis
Hepatobiliary disorders
Hepatic steatosis, hepatic necrosis, hepatotoxicity, hepatic fibrosis, hepatic cirrhosis, liver disorders including those hepatic events leading to life-threatening consequences such as liver injury (hepatic, cholestatic and mixed), liver failure which may be fatal and liver transplant
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders
Pigmentation disorder

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders
Rhabdomyolysis, muscle weakness, muscle spasms, muscle pain, systemic lupus erythematosus
Renal and urinary disorders
Renal failure, nocturnal enuresis
Reproductive system and breast disorders
Retrograde ejaculation
General disorders and administration site conditions
Polyserositis
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications
Falls (associated with clozapine-induced seizures, somnolence, postural hypotension, motor and sensory instability)

* These adverse drug reactions were sometimes fatal.

10.3 Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

Atypical antipsychotic drugs, including clozapine, have been associated with cases of sleep apnoea, with or without concomitant weight gain. In patients who have a history of or are at risk for sleep apnoea, clozapine should be prescribed with caution.

11 OVERDOSAGE

In cases of acute intentional or accidental Clozaril overdose, for which information on the outcome is available, to date the mortality is about 12%. Most of the fatalities were associated with cardiac failure or pneumonia caused by aspiration and occurred at doses above 2000 mg. There have been reports of patients recovering from an overdose in excess of 10,000 mg. However, in a few adult individuals, primarily those not previously exposed to Clozaril, the ingestion of doses as low as 400 mg led to life-threatening comatose conditions and, in one case, to death. In young children, the intake of 50 mg to 200 mg resulted in strong sedation or coma without being lethal.

11.1 Signs and symptoms

Drowsiness, lethargy, areflexia, coma, confusion, hallucinations, agitation, delirium, extrapyramidal symptoms, hyper-reflexia, convulsions, hypersalivation, mydriasis, blurred vision, thermolability, hypotension, collapse, tachycardia, cardiac arrhythmias; aspiration pneumonia, dyspnea, respiratory depression or failure.

11.2 Treatment

There are no specific antidotes for Clozaril.

Gastric lavage and/or the administration of activated charcoal within the first 6 hours after Clozaril ingestion. (Peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis are unlikely to be effective.) Symptomatic treatment under continuous cardiac monitoring, surveillance of respiration, monitoring of electrolytes and acid-base balance. The use of epinephrine should be avoided in the treatment of hypotension because of the possibility of a 'reverse epinephrine' effect.

Close medical supervision is necessary for at least 5 days because of the possibility of delayed reactions.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antipsychotic agent (ATC code N05A H02)

12.1 Mechanism of action (MOA)

Clozaril has been shown to be an antipsychotic agent that is different from classic antipsychotics. In pharmacological experiments, the compound does not induce catalepsy or inhibit apomorphine- or amphetamine-induced stereotyped behavior. It has only weak dopamine receptor-blocking activity at D1, D2, D3 and D5 receptors, but shows high potency for the D4 receptor, in addition to potent anti-alpha-adrenergic, anticholinergic, antihistaminic, and arousal reaction-inhibiting effects. It has also been shown to possess antiserotonergic properties.

12.2 Pharmacodynamics (PD)

Clinically Clozaril produces rapid and marked sedation, and exerts antipsychotic effects in patients with schizophrenia resistant to other antipsychotic agents. In such cases, Clozaril has proven effective in relieving both positive and negative schizophrenic symptoms in short and long-term trials.

Clozaril is unique in that it produces virtually no major extrapyramidal reactions such as acute dystonia and tardive dyskinesia. Furthermore, parkinsonian-like side effects and akathisia are rare. In contrast to classical antipsychotics, clozapine produces little or no prolactin elevation, thus avoiding adverse effects such as gynecomastia, amenorrhea, galactorrhea, and impotence.

Potentially serious adverse reactions caused by Clozaril therapy are granulocytopenia and agranulocytosis occurring at an estimated incidence of 3% and 0.7% respectively (see section WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

12.3 Pharmacokinetics (PK)

12.3.1 Absorption

The absorption of orally administered clozapine is 90% to 95%; neither the rate nor the extent of absorption is influenced by food.

Clozapine is subject to moderate first-pass metabolism, resulting in an absolute bioavailability of 50% to 60%.

12.3.2 Distribution

In steady-state conditions, when given twice daily, peak blood levels occur on an average at 2.1 hours (range: 0.4 to 4.2 hours), and the volume of distribution is 1.6 L/kg. Clozapine is approximately 95% bound to plasma proteins.

12.3.3 Biotransformation/metabolism

Clozapine is almost completely metabolized before excretion by CYP1A2 and 3A4, and to some extent by CYP2C19 and 2D6. Of the main metabolites only the desmethyl metabolite was found to be active. Its pharmacological actions resemble those of clozapine, but are considerably weaker and of short duration.

12.3.4 Elimination

Its elimination is biphasic, with a mean terminal half-life of 12 hours (range: 6 to 26 hours). After single doses of 75 mg the mean terminal half-life was 7.9 hours, it increased to 14.2 hours when steady-state conditions were reached by administering daily doses of 75 mg for at least 7 days.

Only trace amounts of unchanged drug are detected in the urine and feces, approximately 50% of the administered dose being excreted as metabolites in the urine and 30% in the feces.

12.3.5 Linearity/non-linearity

Dosage increases from 37.5 mg to 75 mg and 150 mg given twice daily were found to result during steady state in linearly dose-proportional increases in the area under the plasma concentration/time curve (AUC), and in the peak and minimum plasma concentrations.

13 CLINICAL STUDIES

13.1 Clinical studies in treatment-resistant schizophrenia (Clozapine study 16 & 30)

The first study was Study 16, a randomized, double-blind, multicenter, parallel group comparative trial of clozapine versus chlorpromazine (CPZ) in hospitalized patients (aged 18 to 65 years and of either sex) with treatment resistant schizophrenia (DSM-III criteria). 151 such patients were randomly assigned to either clozapine (150-900 mg) or chlorpromazine (900–1800 mg) for 28 days with an optional extension up to 28 days (75 in clozapine group and 76 in chlorpromazine group). Among the study participants, 92 were male and 59 were female with a median age of 30 years and median duration of present illness of approximately two months. Efficacy was assessed by measuring mean change from baseline in the Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale (BPRS), Clinical Global Impression (CGI) scores and the Nurses Observation Scale for Inpatient Evaluation (NOSIE-30). Throughout the study, and at endpoint, clozapine patients had a more rapid onset of action and showed significant improvement in BPRS items compared to chlorpromazine patients. At week 1, clozapine was statistically superior to CPZ in two items assessed: Motor retardation [0.67 vs. 0.12; p<0.05] and blunted affect [0.93 vs. 0.34; p<0.01]. At week 2, two more items also showed statistically significant improvements in clozapine group, emotional withdrawal [1.48 vs. 0.98; p<0.01] and unusual thought content [2.06 vs. 1.45; p<0.05]. At week 3, clozapine was statistically superior in 7 out of the 18 BPRS items assessed. At endpoint, clozapine showed statistically significant improvements in every item assessed. Results were similar for BPRS factors and CGI scores also. Throughout the study, there were 4 items, (somatic concern, grandiosity, hallucinatory behavior and disorientation), where clozapine was not statistically superior at least once.

By week 2, statistically significant differences favoring clozapine were observed in the BPRS Total Score and maintained throughout the duration of study. Tests of comparative efficacy at endpoint showed clozapine to be significantly better for all five factors assessed: anxiety/depression (0.85 vs. 0.54; p<0.05), anergia (1.15 vs. 0.72; p<0.001),thought disturbance (1.80 vs. 1.28; p <0.01), activation (1.34 vs. 0.89; p<0.01), and hostile/suspiciousness (1.26 vs. 0.74; p<0.01). At endpoint, clozapine showed statistically significant improvements in mean change in total BPRS score [22.53 vs. 14.64, p<0.001] and CGI [1.95 vs. 1.33, p<0.01]. Clozapine patients generally did better in the all NOSIE factors, except for social competence. Mean change from baseline showed statistically significant differences favoring clozapine in the improvement of irritability at weeks 3 (6.26 vs. 0.67, p<0.01) and week 4 (6.84 vs. 1.36, p<0.05). For most of the factors, particularly, total patient assets, there was clear evidence of an early onset of therapeutic benefit with clozapine, thus corroborating BPRS data, although no statistical difference was observed. At endpoint, clozapine was superior to CPZ for the following NOSIE factors: social interest (4.14 vs. 3.24), personal neatness (3.19 vs. 2.26), irritability (3.04 vs. 0.60) and manifest psychosis (6.32 vs. 4.24) as well as total assets (20.54 vs. 16.66). The two drugs were essentially equivalent on motor retardation (mean change of 0.78 for clozapine vs.1.11 for chlorpromazine). Only in the area of social competence was chlorpromazine consistently better than clozapine (mean change of -4.62 for clozapine vs -5.32 for chlorpromazine).

Second study was Study 30, a randomized, double-blind, multicenter, parallel group, 6-week, comparative study of clozapine versus chlorpromazine plus benzpropine. The study population included 319 treatment-resistant schizophrenic patients, between the ages of 18-60 years, who met DSM-III criteria for schizophrenia, refractory to treatment. Eligible patients were randomly assigned to either clozapine (up to 900 mg/day) or chlorpromazine plus benzpropine (up to 1800 mg/day of chlorpromazine, plus 6 mg/day of benzpropine). Efficacy was assessed using the BPRS score, CGI scale, and NOSIE-30. At the end of 6 weeks, clozapine was significantly superior to chlorpromazine in all "Positive", "Negative" and general symptoms of BPRS (p<0.001) except "Grandiosity" and "BPRS total score". Clozapine was also significantly superior to chlorpromazine in reducing BPRS general symptoms including somatic concerns (p<0.01) and tension (p<0.001) but not for anxiety, guilt and depressed mood. Clozapine showed a significantly superior change in CGI scale compared to chlorpromazine starting at week 1 (p<0.001). Clozapine was superior to chlorpromazine on all six NOSIE-30 factors and total assets starting at either week 1 or 2 (p < 0.05 to 0.001). Clozapine was statistically significant in the following NOSIE factors, social competence, social interest and personal neatness, and total assets (p<0.001), as well as irritability and motor retardation (p<0.01 <0.05, respectively).

14 NON-CLINICAL SAFETY DATA

Preclinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity and carcinogenic potential (for reproductive toxicity, see section WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING POTENTIAL, PREGNANCY, BREASTFEEDING, AND FERTILITY).

14.1 Mutagenicity

Clozapine and/or its metabolites were devoid of genotoxic potential when investigated for induction of gene mutations, chromosome aberrations and primary DNA-damage in a spectrum of in vitro mutagenicity tests. Likewise, no genotoxic activity was observed in vivo (bone marrow micronucleus test in mice).

14.2 Carcinogenicity

In Sprague-Dawley (CD) rats treated in the diet for 2 years, maximum tolerated doses of 35 mg/kg per day revealed no carcinogenic potential of clozapine. Likewise, no evidence of tumorigenic effects was obtained in two 1.5-year feeding studies in Charles River (CD) mice. In the first study, oral dose levels of up to 64 mg/kg per day were administered to males, and of up to 75 mg/kg per day to females respectively. In the second study, the highest dose for both sexes was 61 mg/kg per day.

14.3 Reproductive toxicity

No embryotoxic or teratogenic potential of clozapine was observed in rats or rabbits at daily oral doses of up to 40 mg/kg. In male rats receiving the same dosages for 70 days prior to mating, fertility was unaffected.

In female rats, fertility as well as pre- and postnatal development of the offspring was not adversely affected by oral clozapine treatment prior to mating (up to 40 mg/kg per day). When rats were treated at the same dosages during the later part of pregnancy and during lactation, survival rates of the young from lactating dams were lowered and the young were hyperactive. However, there was no lasting effect on pup development after weaning.

15 EXCIPIENTS

Clozaril tablets: magnesium stearate; silica, colloidal anhydrous; povidone; talc; maize starch; lactose monohydrate.

Pharmaceutical formulations may vary between countries.

16 INCOMPATIBILITIES

Not applicable.

17 STORAGE

See folding box

Clozaril should not be used after the date marked "EXP" on the pack.

Clozaril must be kept out of the reach and sight of children.

18 INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE AND HANDLING

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

19 MANUFACTURER

See folding box.

20 COUNTRY SPECIFIC PACKAGE LEAFLET

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Mylan



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