

# CLOZARIL<sup>®</sup> TABLET

Consumer Medication Information Leaflet (RiMUP)

Clozapine (25mg, 100mg)

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## What Clozaril is used for

Clozaril is used to treat people suffering from schizophrenia who have either tried other antipsychotic medications and did not benefit sufficiently or who are unable to tolerate other antipsychotic medications because of side effects. Clozaril is also used to treat people suffering from schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder (schizophrenia with mood disorders) who might otherwise attempt to commit suicide.

Schizophrenia is a mental illness involving disturbances in thinking, emotional reactions and behaviour.

## How Clozaril works

Clozaril tablets contain an active substance called clozapine. This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called antipsychotics. Clozaril predominantly works by binding to and blocking the D4 receptor (or dopamine receptor) in the brain. Clozaril also has weak binding and blocking activity on the D1, D2, D3 and D5 receptors in the brain as well as other receptors that potentially have some contribution to its effectiveness.

## Before you use Clozaril

### - When you must not use it

Do not take Clozaril:

- If you are allergic to clozapine or any of the ingredients of Clozaril listed at the end of this leaflet. (see section “**Product description**”)

- If you are unable to undergo regular blood tests.
- If you have ever been diagnosed with low white blood cells except if it was following a treatment for cancer.
- If you suffer or have ever suffered from bone marrow disease.
- If you have liver, kidney or heart problems.
- If you suffer from uncontrolled seizures (fits).
- If you have problems with alcohol or drug abuse.
- If you suffer or have ever suffered from severe constipation, obstruction of the bowel or any other condition which has affected your large bowel.
- If you suffer from circulatory collapse (a very pronounced fall in blood pressure that may lead to unconsciousness).
- If you suffer from reduced consciousness and severe drowsiness.

If any of the above applies to you, tell your doctor without taking Clozaril.

### - Before you start to use it

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

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, think that you may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant. Do not take Clozaril until you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved. The following extrapyramidal and/or withdrawal symptoms may occur in newborn babies of mothers that have used Clozaril in the last trimester (last three months of their pregnancy): agitation, muscle stiffness and/or weakness, shaking, sleepiness, breathing problems, and difficulty in feeding. If your baby develops any of these symptoms you may need to contact your doctor.

Do not use this medicine if you are breast-feeding. This is because small amounts may pass into the mother’s milk. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice

before taking any medicine if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

Before starting Clozaril, you will have a blood test to make sure that you can take this medicine.

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

- If you have had a stroke, heart disease or family history of abnormal conduction in the heart called “prolongation of the QT interval”
- If you suffer from any of the below:-
  - enlargement of the prostate
  - have a history of seizures
  - glaucoma (a condition in which the pressure of fluid in the eye is generally too high)
  - diabetes
  - any other serious medical condition

If any of these apply to you, tell your doctor before you take Clozaril.

### ***Older people (age 60 years and over)***

Your doctor might need to adjust your treatment if you are 60 or older.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you suffer from a condition called dementia (decline in all areas of mental ability).

### - Taking other medicines

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

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

- Sleeping pills
- Tranquilizers
- Anti-allergy medicines
- Antibiotics
- Medicines used to treat depression

- Medicines used to treat seizures
- Medicines used to treat ulcers of the stomach
- Medicines effective against fungal or viral infections
- Medicines used to treat mental illness
- Birth-control tablets

Other medicines not listed above may also interact with Clozaril. Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Clozaril.

### How to use Clozaril

#### - How much to use

Follow your doctor's instructions carefully. Do not exceed the recommended dosage.

Your doctor will tell you exactly how many tablets of Clozaril to take and how often you should take them.

- *Treatment-resistant schizophrenia and reduction of recurrent suicidal behavior in patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder*  
Treatment is usually started with one half of a 25 mg tablet (12.5 mg) once or twice on the first day. Your doctor will then gradually increase your dose, until the ideal dose for you is established.  
Your treatment will continue with a daily dose of Clozaril between 300 and 450 mg. The daily dose is usually taken in divided portions, some being taken in the morning and some at bedtime. Some people may require doses of up to a maximum of 900 mg per day.

If you have heart, kidney, or liver disease, or are elderly, your doctor may start you on a lower dose and increase it more gradually.

#### *Children and adolescents*

The use of Clozaril in children

and adolescents is not recommended.

#### - When to use Clozaril

Taking Clozaril at the same time each day will help you remember when to take your medicine.

Take Clozaril tablets by mouth. The scored tablets can be divided into equal halves.

#### - How long to use Clozaril

Continue taking Clozaril as your doctor tells you. You should take Clozaril for at least 6 months. Do not stop taking this medicine without first talking to your doctor. If you have questions about how long to take Clozaril, talk to your doctor or your pharmacist.

#### - If you forget to use Clozaril

If you forget to take a dose, take another as soon as you remember. However, if it is time to take your next dose, or less than 4 hours before your next dose, leave out your forgotten tablets and take your next dose at the right time. Do not take a double dose of Clozaril to make up for the one that you missed. If you have not taken Clozaril for more than two days, do not re-start taking the medicine and contact your doctor as soon as possible.

#### - If you use too much (overdose)

Contact your doctor immediately or go to the Emergency Department of your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much of this medicine. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Taking too many tablets may cause drowsiness, confusion, blurred vision, difficulty breathing (dyspnea), hypotension, and extrapyramidal symptoms.

### While you are using Clozaril

#### - Things you must do

Clozaril may only be taken if prescribed by a doctor.

Follow all doctors' instructions carefully, even if they differ from the general information contained in this leaflet.

- You must have strict and regular blood tests for as long as you continue to take Clozaril and for four weeks after stopping the treatment. Your doctor will tell you when to have the tests. It is important that you attend for all blood tests recommended by your doctor.
- Clozaril can cause a serious decrease in the number of white cells in your blood (agranulocytosis). Only regular blood tests can tell the doctor if you are at risk of developing agranulocytosis. If the number of your white blood cells falls below a critical level, Clozaril must be stopped immediately and you must never take any medicines containing clozapine again.
- If you suffer from high level of sugar in the blood (diabetes), your doctor may regularly check your level of sugar in the blood.
- Clozaril may cause alteration in blood lipids. Clozaril may cause weight gain. Your doctor may monitor your weight and blood lipid levels.
- Consult your doctor immediately if you experience fast and irregular heart beat that persists when you are at rest, possibly accompanied by shortness of breath and swelling of the feet or legs. These effects may especially occur at the beginning of the treatment and your doctor may need to take further measures. These symptoms could be signs of myocarditis, an inflammation of the heart muscle, or another heart condition.

- **Things you must not do**

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

Do not stop taking Clozaril or lower the dosage, even if you are feeling better, without checking with your doctor. If this medicine is stopped for any reason, your doctor will reduce the dose gradually, over a one to two week period, to avoid side effects, before stopping the medicine completely.

If you stop taking Clozaril suddenly, your condition may worsen or you may have unwanted side effects or withdrawal effects such as profuse sweating, headache, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

- **Things to be careful of****Driving and using machines**

Clozaril may cause drowsiness, especially at the start of treatment. Therefore you should avoid driving or using machines until you have got used to the medication and drowsiness has disappeared.

While taking Clozaril, you may experience light-headedness or fainting, especially at the start of treatment. This is due to a lowering of your blood pressure.

Clozaril can cause sleepiness and remaining in bed for prolonged duration in combination with weight gain may lead to blood clots in some patients.

**Taking Clozaril with food and drink****Interaction with alcohol:**

Clozaril may enhance the effects of alcohol. You should not drink alcohol while taking Clozaril.

• Levels of Clozaril in the blood can be affected by stopping smoking suddenly or changing in the number of caffeine-containing drinks e.g. coffee you have in a day. Inform your doctor of any such changes in your habits.

**Women of child-bearing potential and contraception**

Some women taking some antipsychotic medications have irregular or no periods. If you are female and you have been affected in this way, your periods may return when your medication is changed to Clozaril. In these circumstances, you should make sure that you use a reliable method of contraception.

**Side effects**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you get any unexpected symptoms while you are using Clozaril, even if you do not think that they are connected with the medicine.

**Some side effects could be serious and need medical attention**

*Very common: these side effects may affect more than 10 in every 100 patients*

Fast and irregular heart beat that persists when you are at rest

*Common: these side effects may affect between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients*

- Signs of infection such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers. Clozaril can reduce the number of white cells in your blood, and lead to a higher sensitivity to infection. (see also “*Things you must do*”)
- Seizures.
- High level of a specific type of white blood cells, increased white blood cell count.
- Loss of consciousness, fainting.

*Uncommon: these side effects may affect between 1 and 10 in every 1,000 patients*

- Symptoms of neuroleptic malignant syndrome, such as fever, muscle cramps, fluctuation in blood pressure, disorientation, confusion.

If you experience any of these, tell your doctor immediately.

**Some side effects are very common**

*These side effects may affect more than 10 in every 100 patients*

- Drowsiness
- Dizziness
- Constipation, tell your doctor if constipation gets worse.
- Increased production of saliva

**Some side effects are common**

*These side effects may affect between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients*

- Weight gain
- Slurred speech
- Abnormal movements, inability to initiate movement, inability to remain motionless, inner feeling restlessness, stiff limbs, trembling hands.
- Shaking/trembling
- Muscle stiffness
- Headache
- Blurred vision, difficulties in reading
- Changes in ECG heart machine
- Lightheadedness upon standing due to decreased blood pressure
- Increase in blood pressure
- Nausea, vomiting, dry mouth
- Elevated liver enzymes
- Problems in passing or retaining urine
- Fever
- Tiredness

Contact your doctor if any of these affect you severely. If you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, inform your doctor or pharmacist.

You may report any side effects or adverse drug reactions directly to the National Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring by calling Tel: 03-78835550, or visiting the website [portal.bpfk.gov.my](http://portal.bpfk.gov.my) (Consumers → Reporting).

**Storage and disposal of Clozaril****- Storage**

- Keep Clozaril out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store in the original package.

- Do not use Clozaril after the expiry date shown on the pack.
- Do not use any Clozaril pack that is damaged or shows signs of tampering.
- Store below 30°C

- Disposal

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

**Product Description**

- What it looks like

*Clozaril tablet 25mg*: Yellow, circular, flat-bevelled edge tablet with facilitated parting line and coded LO on one side, marked SANDOZ (circle) on the other.

*Clozaril tablet 100mg*: Yellow, circular, flat-bevelled edge tablet with facilitated parting line and coded ZA on one side, marked SANDOZ (linear) on the other.

Each tablet contains 25 mg or 100 mg clozapine. The scored tablets can be divided into equal halves

- Ingredients

- Active ingredients

- The active substance of Clozaril is clozapine.

- Inactive ingredients

- The other ingredients are magnesium stearate, silica, colloidal anhydrous, povidone, talc, maize starch, and lactose monohydrate.

- MAL Number

Clozaril Tablet 25mg:  
MAL19992681AR

Clozaril Tablet 100mg:  
MAL20000747ACR

**Manufacturer**

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Urunleri Sanayi VeTicaret A.S.,  
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**Product Registration Holder**

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