

Potential side effects associated with olanzapine (Zyprexa)

Below is the incidence of adverse events in patients treated with olanzapine at dose ≥ 2.5 mg/day.

How did we decide what is or is not a "side effect" of the medication?

Adverse (undesirable) events that occurred during treatment with olanzapine in placebo-controlled clinical trials are considered here to be side effects if they occurred at least twice as often as on placebo.

When do we call a side effect "common"?

A side effect is considered here to be "common" if the difference between its incidence with olanzapine versus placebo was at least 5%.

What "other" or "less common" side effects will we consider on this page?

Other side effects included on this page are those for which the difference between its incidence with olanzapine versus on placebo was at least 1%.

Note: Side effects for which the difference between the two treatment groups was less than 1% are not discussed on this page.

Note: Symptoms reported by patients may be classified by the researchers into categories that could be considered to overlap, e.g., dizziness and postural hypotension.

Common side effects	Drug-placebo difference	Percentage of patients on olanzapine who reported it	Percentage of patients on placebo who reported it
Sleepiness	16%	29%	13%
Dizziness	7%	11%	4%
Constipation	5%	9%	4%
Abnormal gait	5%	6%	1%
Other side effects			
Fever	4%	6%	2%
Cough	3%	6%	3%
Back pain	3%	5%	2%
Chest pain	2%	3%	1%
Dizziness (postural hypotension)	2%	3%	1%
Heart rate increased	2%	3%	1%

Swelling of legs, feet, or ankles	2%	3%	1%
Blood pressure increased	1%	2%	1%
Impaired speech	1%	2%	1%
Loss of bladder control	1%	2%	1%
Urinary tract infection	1%	2%	1%

Important! The information in this handout is for general educational purposes only and is only a partial list of the potential side effects of this medication. If you are a patient, please consult the medical professional who prescribed this medication for further information about the potential side effects of this medication. For additional important information, including about potentially serious side effects of this medication, please make sure to review the page at the link below: <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a601213.html>