

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Bipolar Mania:** SERQUEL® is indicated for the short-term treatment of acute manic episodes associated with bipolar disorder, as either monotherapy or adjunctive therapy to lithium or divalproex. The efficacy of SERQUEL in acute bipolar mania was established in two 3-week monotherapy trials and one 3-week adjunctive therapy trial comparing SERQUEL to placebo. In the monotherapy trials, patients were treated for more than 3 weeks but not systematically evaluated in clinical trials. Therefore, the physician who elects to use SERQUEL for extended periods should periodically re-evaluate the long-term risks and benefits of the drug for the individual patient. **Schizophrenia:** SERQUEL is indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia. The efficacy of SERQUEL in schizophrenia was established in short-term (6- to 8-week) controlled trials of schizophrenic patients. The effectiveness of SERQUEL in long-term use, that is, for more than 6 weeks, has not been systematically evaluated in controlled clinical trials. The physician who elects to use SERQUEL for extended periods should periodically re-evaluate the long-term usefulness of the drug for the individual patient.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** SERQUEL is contraindicated in individuals with a known hypersensitivity to this medication or any of its ingredients.

**WARNINGS: Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS):** A potentially fatal symptom complex sometimes referred to as Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) has been reported in association with administration of antipsychotic drugs, including SERQUEL. Rare cases of NMS have been reported with SERQUEL. Clinical manifestations of NMS are hyperreflexia, muscle rigidity, altered mental status, and evidence of autonomic instability (irregular pulse or blood pressure, tachycardia, diaphoresis, and cardiac dysrhythmia). Additional signs may include elevated creatine phosphokinase, myoglobinuria (rhabdomyolysis) and acute renal failure. The diagnostic evaluation of patients with this syndrome is complicated, inasmuch as a diagnosis is important to exclude causes where the clinical presentation includes both serious medical illness (e.g., pneumonia, systemic infection, etc.) and untreated or inadequately treated extrapyramidal signs and symptoms (EPS). Other important considerations in the differential diagnosis include central anticholinergic toxicity, heat stroke, drug fever and primary central nervous system (CNS) pathology. The management of NMS should include: 1) immediate discontinuation of antipsychotic drugs and other drugs not essential to concurrent therapy; 2) intensive symptomatic treatment and medical monitoring; and 3) treatment of any concomitant serious medical problems for which specific treatments are available. There is no general agreement about specific treatment approaches to NMS. The potential reintroduction of drug therapy should be carefully considered. The patient should be carefully monitored since recurrences of NMS have been reported. **Tardive Dyskinesia:** A syndrome of potentially irreversible, involuntary, dysrhythmic movements may develop in patients treated with antipsychotic drugs. Although the prevalence of the syndrome appears to be highest among the elderly, especially elderly women, it is possible to rely upon prevalence estimates to predict, at the inception of antipsychotic treatment, which patients are likely to develop the syndrome. Whether antipsychotic drug product will affect their potential to cause tardive dyskinesia is unknown. The risk of developing tardive dyskinesia and the likelihood that it will become irreversible are believed to increase as the duration of treatment and the total cumulative dose of antipsychotic drugs administered to the patient increase. However, the syndrome can develop, although much less commonly, after relatively brief treatment periods at low doses. There is no known treatment for established cases of tardive dyskinesia, although the syndrome may remit, partially or completely. If antipsychotic treatment is withdrawn, antipsychotic treatment, itself, however, may suppress (or partially suppress) the signs and symptoms of the syndrome and thereby may possibly mask the underlying problem. The need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear in a patient on SERQUEL, drug discontinuation should be considered. However, some patients may require treatment with SERQUEL despite the presence of the syndrome. **Hyperglycemia and Diabetes Mellitus:** Hyperglycemia, in some cases extreme and associated with ketocidosis or hyperosmolar coma and death, has been reported in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics, including SERQUEL. Assessment of the relationship between atypical antipsychotic use and glucose abnormalities is complicated by the possibility of an increased background risk of diabetes in patients with schizophrenia, as well as the increasing incidence of diabetes. The need for continued treatment should be reassessed periodically. However, epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of treatment-emergent hyperglycemia-related adverse events in patients treated with the atypical antipsychotics. Precise risk estimates for hyperglycemia-related adverse events in patients treated with atypical antipsychotics are not available. Patients with an established diagnosis of diabetes mellitus who are started on atypical antipsychotics should be monitored regularly for worsening of glucose control. Patients with risk factors for diabetes should be monitored closely. The potential for hyperglycemia in patients with atypical antipsychotic should undergo fasting blood glucose testing at the beginning of treatment and periodically during treatment. Any patient treated with atypical antipsychotics should be monitored for symptoms of hyperglycemia including polydipsia, polyuria, polyphagia, and weakness. Patients who develop symptoms of hyperglycemia during treatment with atypical antipsychotics should undergo fasting blood glucose testing. In some cases, hyperglycemia has resolved when the atypical antipsychotic was discontinued, however, some patients require continuation of anti-diabetic treatment despite discontinuation of the suspect drug.

**PRECAUTIONS: General: Orthostatic Hypotension:** SERQUEL may induce orthostatic hypotension associated with dizziness, tachycardia and, in some patients, syncope, especially during the initial dose titration period, possibly reflecting its  $\alpha_1$ -adrenoceptor antagonist activity. The risk of orthostatic hypotension is increased in patients treated with SERQUEL compared with 0% (0/67) on placebo and about 0.4% (2/52) on active control drug. SERQUEL should be used with particular caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease (history of myocardial infarction or ischemic heart disease, heart failure or conduction abnormalities), cerebrovascular disease or conditions which would predispose patients to hypotension (dehydration, hypovolemia and treatment with anti-hypertensive medications). The risk of orthostatic hypotension and syncope may be minimized by limiting the initial dose to 75 mg bid. If the patient is unable to tolerate the initial dose, the physician should consider a lower titration schedule is appropriate. **Cardiac:** The toxicology of extracts was observed in association with quetiapine treatment in chronic dog studies (see Animal Toxicology in Prescribing Information). Lesions changes have also been observed in patients during long-term SERQUEL treatment, but a causal relationship to SERQUEL use has not been established. Nevertheless, the possibility of lentiform changes cannot be excluded at this time. Therefore, examination of the lens by methods adequate to detect cataract formation, such as slit lamp examination or other appropriate ophthalmologic procedures, should be performed at baseline and periodically, and at 6 month intervals during chronic treatment. **Seizures:** During clinical trials, seizures occurred in 0.6% (18/2792) of patients treated with SERQUEL compared to 0.2% (1/67) on placebo and 0.7% (4/527) on active control drugs. As with other antipsychotics SERQUEL should be used cautiously in patients with a history of seizures or with conditions that potentially lower the seizure threshold, e.g., Alzheimer's dementia. Clinical trials that lower the seizure threshold may be more prevalent in a population of 65 years or older. **Hypothyroidism:** Clinical trials with SERQUEL demonstrated a dose-related decrease in total and free thyroxine (T4) of approximately 20% at the higher end of the therapeutic dose range and was maximal in the first 4 to 6 weeks of treatment, but stabilized without adaptation or progression during more chronic therapy. Generally, these changes were of no clinical significance and TSH was unchanged in most patients, and levels of TBG were unchanged. In nearly all cases, cessation of SERQUEL treatment was associated with a reversal of the effects on total and free T4, irrespective of the duration of treatment. About 0.4% (12/2791) of SERQUEL patients did experience TSH increases in monotherapy studies. Six of the patients with TSH increases received thyroid treatment. In the meta-analysis studies, when SERQUEL was compared to placebo, the incidence of hypothyroidism was 0.1% (1/1520) for placebo-treated patients had elevated TSH levels. Of the SERQUEL-treated patients with elevated TSH levels, 3 had simultaneous low free T4 levels. **Cholesterol and Triglyceride Elevations:** In schizophrenia trials, SERQUEL-treated patients had increases from baseline in cholesterol and triglyceride of 11% and 17%, respectively, compared to slight decreases for placebo patients. These changes were only weakly related to the increases in weight observed on SERQUEL treatment. **Hyperproliferation:** Although an elevation of prolactin levels was not demonstrated in clinical trials with SERQUEL, increased prolactin levels have been observed in clinical studies with this compound, and there was an increase in mammary gland neoplasia in rats. **Carcinogenesis:** Tissue culture experiments indicate that approximately one-third of human breast cancers are production dependent in vitro a factor of potential importance if the prescription of these drugs is contemplated in a patient with previously detected breast cancer. Although disturbances such as galactorrhea, amenorrhea, gynecostasia, and impotence have been reported with prolactin-elevating compounds, the clinical significance of elevated serum prolactin levels is unknown for most patients. Health clinical studies on epidemiological studies conducted to date have shown an association between elevated prolactin levels and increased risk of breast cancer in humans; the available evidence is considered too limited to be conclusive at this time. **Transaminase Elevations:** Asymptomatic, transient and reversible elevations in serum transaminases (primarily ALT) have been reported. In schizophrenia trials, the proportions of patients with transaminase elevations of 3 times the upper limits of the normal reference range in a pool of 3- to 6-week placebo-controlled trials were approximately 6% for SERQUEL compared to 1% for placebo. In acute bipolar mania trials, the proportions of patients with transaminase elevations of 3 times the upper limit of the normal reference range were approximately 16% of patients on SERQUEL compared to 4% of placebo-treated patients. These hepatic enzyme elevations usually occurred within the first 3 weeks of both SERQUEL and placebo. These hepatic enzyme elevations usually occurred within the first 3 weeks of both treatment and promptly returned to pre-study levels with ongoing treatment with SERQUEL.

**Potential for Cognitive and Motor Impairment:** Somnolence was a commonly reported adverse event reported in patients treated with SERQUEL especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose- titration. In schizophrenia trials, somnolence was reported in 18% of patients on SERQUEL compared to 11% of placebo patients. In acute bipolar mania trials using SERQUEL as monotherapy, somnolence was reported in 16% of patients on SERQUEL compared to 4% of placebo-treated patients. These effects may be additive with other CNS depressants. The potential for impaired judgment, thinking, or motor skills should be cautioned about performing activities requiring mental alertness, such as operating a motor vehicle (including automobiles) or operating hazardous machinery until they are reasonably certain that SERQUEL therapy does not affect them adversely. **Prazosin:** One case of prazosin in a patient receiving SERQUEL was reported prior to market introduction. While a causal relationship to use of SERQUEL in this case does not appear to be established, the potential for additive effects is reported in using prazosin and it is possible that SERQUEL may share this capacity. Severe prazosin may require surgical intervention. **Body Temperature Regulation:** Although not reported with SERQUEL, disruption of the body's ability to reduce core body temperature has been attributed to antipsychotic agents. Appropriate care is advised when prescribing SERQUEL for patients who will be experiencing conditions which may contribute to an elevation in core body temperature, e.g., exertion strenuously, exposure to extreme heat, receiving concomitant medication with anticholinergic activity, or being subject to dehydration. **Dehydration:** Exposed dysrhythmia and asystole have been associated with antipsychotic drug use. Aspiration pneumonia is a common cause of morbidity and mortality in elderly patients, in particular those with advanced Alzheimer's dementia. SERQUEL and other antipsychotic drugs should be used cautiously in patients at risk for aspiration pneumonia. **Suicide:** The possibility of a suicide attempt is inherent in bipolar disorder and schizophrenia; close supervision of high risk patients should accompany drug therapy. Prescriptions for SERQUEL should be written for the smallest quantity of tablets consistent with good patient management in order to reduce the risk of overdose. Use in Patients with Known or Suspected Renal Impairment: The safety and efficacy of SERQUEL in patients with renal impairment has not been systematically evaluated. The safety of SERQUEL has not been evaluated or used on any appreciable extent in patients with a recent history of myocardial infarction or unstable heart disease. Patients with these diagnoses were excluded from premarketing clinical studies. Because of the risk of orthostatic hypotension with SERQUEL, caution should be observed

**SERQUEL® (quetiapine fumarate) Tablets**

in cardiac patients (see Orthostatic Hypotension) **Information for Patients:** Physicians are advised to discuss the following risks with patients for whom they prescribe SERQUEL. **Orthostatic Hypotension:** Patients should be advised of the risk of orthostatic hypotension, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration, and also at times of re-initiating treatment or increases in dose. **Interference with Cognitive and Motor Performance:** Since somnolence was a commonly reported adverse event associated with SERQUEL treatment, patients should be advised of the risk of somnolence, especially during the 3-5 day period of initial dose titration. Patients should be cautioned about performing any activity requiring mental alertness, such as operating a motor vehicle and driving machinery, until they are reasonably certain that SERQUEL therapy does not affect them adversely. **Pregnancy:** Patients should be advised to notify their physician if they become pregnant or intend to become pregnant during therapy. **Nursing:** Patients should be advised not to breast feed if they are taking SERQUEL. **Concomitant Medication:** As with other medications, patients should be advised to notify their physicians if they are taking, or plan to take, any prescription or over-the-counter drugs. **Alcohol:** Patients should be advised to avoid consuming alcoholic beverages while taking SERQUEL. **Heat Exposure and Dehydration:** Patients should be advised to avoid heat exposure and dehydration. **Diets:** Patients should be advised to avoid diets that are low in specific laboratory tests are recommended. **Drug Interactions:** The risks of using SERQUEL in combination with other drugs have not been extensively evaluated in systematic studies. Given the primary CNS effects of SERQUEL, caution should be used when it is taken in combination with other centrally acting drugs. SERQUEL potentiated the cognitive and motor effects of alcohol in a clinical trial in subjects with selected psychotic disorders, and alcoholic beverages should be avoided while taking SERQUEL. Because of its potential for inducing hypotension, SERQUEL may enhance the effects of certain anti-hypertensive agents. SERQUEL may antagonize the effects of levodopa and dopamine agonists. **Effect of Other Drugs on Quetiapine:** Co-administration of quetiapine (250 mg bid) and phenytoin (100 mg bid) increased the mean oral clearance of quetiapine by 5-fold. Increased doses of SERQUEL may be required to maintain control of symptoms of schizophrenia in patients receiving quetiapine and phenytoin, or other hepatic enzyme inducers (e.g., carbamazepine, barbiturates, rifampin, glucocorticoids). Caution should be taken if phenytoin is withdrawn and replaced with a non-inducer (e.g., valproate). **Divalproex:** Co-administration of quetiapine (150 mg bid) and divalproex (500 mg bid) increased the mean maximum plasma concentration at steady state of quetiapine by 10%. **Other Drugs:** SERQUEL is administered with levothyroxine and other inhibitors of cytochrome P450 CYP3A4 (e.g., itraconazole, fluconazole, and erythromycin). **Fluoxetine, Imipramine, Haloperidol, and Risperidone:** Administration of fluoxetine (60 mg once daily), imipramine (75 mg bid), haloperidol (7.5 mg bid), or risperidone (3 mg bid) with quetiapine (300 mg bid) did not alter the steady-state pharmacokinetic parameters of quetiapine. **Effect of Quetiapine on Other Drugs: Lorazepam:** The mean oral clearance of lorazepam (2 mg, single dose) was reduced by 20% in the presence of quetiapine administered as 250 mg bid dosing. **Divalproex:** The mean maximum concentration and area under the curve of total and free valproic acid at steady state were decreased by 10-12% when divalproex (500 mg bid) was administered with quetiapine (150 mg bid). The mean oral clearance of total valproic acid (administered as divalproex 500 mg bid) was increased by 11% in the presence of quetiapine (150 mg bid). The changes were not significant. **Lithium:** Concomitant administration of quetiapine (250 mg bid) with lithium had no effect on any of the steady-state pharmacokinetic parameters of lithium. **Antipsychotics:** Administration of multiple daily doses up to 750 mg/day (on a bid schedule) of quetiapine to subjects with selected psychotic disorders had no clinically relevant effect on the clearance of amphetamine or urinary recovery of amphetamine. These results indicate that SERQUEL is administered with levothyroxine and other inhibitors of cytochrome P450 mediated metabolism of antipsychotics. **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenesis:** Carcinogenicity studies were conducted in C57BL/6J and Wistar rats. Quetiapine was administered in the diet to mice at doses of 20, 75, 250, and 750 mg/kg and to rats by gavage at doses of 25, 75, and 250 mg/kg for two years. These doses are equivalent to 0.1, 0.5, 1.5, and 4.5 times the maximum human dose (800 mg/day) on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis (male) or 0.3, 0.9, 3.0 and 3.0 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis (female). There were no statistically significant increases in the incidence of total and female rat hepatocellular carcinomas or in the incidence of total and female rat mammary gland tumors in rats to human risk is unknown. See Hypertension in PRECAUTIONS, General. **Mutagenesis:** The mutagenic potential of quetiapine was tested in *in vivo* bacterial gene mutation assays and in an *in vitro* mammalian gene mutation assay in Chinese Hamster Ovary cells. However, sufficiently high concentrations of quetiapine may not have been used for all tester strains. Quetiapine did produce a reproducible increase in mutations in one *Salmonella typhimurium* tester strain in the presence of metabolic activation. No evidence of clastogenic potential was obtained in an *in vivo* chromosome aberration assay in cultured human lymphocytes or in the *in vitro* chromosome aberration assay in cultured human lymphocytes. **Fertility:** In a rat fertility study, Sprague-Dawley rats at oral doses of 50 and 150 mg/kg or 0.6 and 1.8 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. Drug-related effects included increases in infertile to male and in the number of matings required for successful impregnation. These effects continued to be observed at 150 mg/kg even after a two-week period without treatment. The no-effect dose for impaired mating and fertility in male rats was 25 mg/kg, or 0.3 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. Quetiapine adversely affected mating and fertility in female Sprague-Dawley rats at an oral dose of 50 mg/kg, 0.6 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. There was, however, evidence of embryofetal toxicity. Delayed in skeletal ossification were detected in rat fetuses at doses of 50 and 200 mg/kg (0.6 and 2.4 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis) and in rabbits at 50 and 100 mg/kg (0.6 and 2.4 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis). Fetal body weight was reduced in rat fetuses at 200 mg/kg and rabbit fetuses at 100 mg/kg (2.4 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis for both species). There was an increased incidence of a minor soft tissue anomaly (carpal/tarsal fusion) in rabbit fetuses at a dose of 100 mg/kg, 1.2 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. There was also evidence of embryofetal toxicity in body weight gain (or death) was observed at the high dose in the rat study and at all doses in the rabbit study. In a postnatal reproductive study in rats, no drug-related effects were observed at doses of 1, 10, and 200 mg/kg or 0.01, 0.12, and 0.24 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. However, in a preliminary perinatal study, there were increases in fetal and pupal death, and decreases in mean litter weight at 150 mg/kg, or 3.0 times the maximum human dose on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women and quetiapine should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks. **Label and Delivery:** The effect of SERQUEL on absorption and utilization in humans is unknown. **Nursing Mothers:** SERQUEL was excreted in milk of treated animals during lactation. It is not known if SERQUEL is excreted in human milk. It is recommended that women receiving SERQUEL should not breast feed. **Pediatric Use:** The safety and effectiveness of SERQUEL in pediatric patients have not been established. **Geriatric Use:** Of the approximately 3400 patients in clinical studies with SERQUEL, 7% (222) were 65 years of age or over. In general, there was no indication of any other difference in tolerability of SERQUEL in the elderly compared to younger adults. Nevertheless, the potential for increased risk of orthostatic hypotension and somnolence should be considered in the elderly. **ADVERSE REACTIONS:** The safety and effectiveness of SERQUEL in elderly patients when compared to younger patients.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:** The information below is derived from a clinical trial database for SERQUEL consisting of over 3000 patients. This database includes 405 patients exposed to SERQUEL for the treatment of acute bipolar mania (monotherapy and adjunctive therapy) and approximately 2600 patients and/or normal subjects exposed to 1 or more doses of SERQUEL for the treatment of schizophrenia. Of these approximately 3000 subjects, approximately 1600 (2300) were treated with SERQUEL and 405 in placebo. The following table lists the most common drug effects/risks and their experience corresponded to approximately 91.4 patients per category. The conditions and duration of treatment with SERQUEL varied greatly and included (in overlapping categories) open-label and double-blind phases of studies, inpatients and outpatients, fixed-dose and dose- titration studies, and short-term or longer-term exposure. Adverse reactions were assessed by collecting adverse events, results of physical examinations, vital signs, weights, laboratory analyses, ECGs, and results of ophthalmologic examinations. Adverse events requiring exposure were obtained by general inquiry and recorded by clinical investigators using terminology of their own and were not assessed for causality. The following table lists the most common adverse events experienced by patients without first grouping similar types of events into a smaller number of standardized adverse categories. In the tables and tabulations that follow, standard COSTART terminology has been used to classify reported adverse events. The standard frequencies of adverse events represent the proportion of individuals who experienced, at least once, a treatment-emergent adverse event of the type listed. An event was considered treatment-emergent if it occurred for the first time or worsened while receiving therapy following baseline evaluation. **ADVERSE REACTIONS IN SHORT-TERM, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIALS: Acute Bipolar Mania: Overall:** Discontinuation due to adverse events were 5.7% for SERQUEL vs. 5.1% for placebo in monotherapy and 3.6% for SERQUEL vs. 5.9% for placebo in adjunctive therapy. **Schizophrenia:** Overall, there was little difference in the incidence of discontinuation due to adverse events (4% for SERQUEL vs. 3% for placebo) in a pool of controlled trials. However, discontinuations due to somnolence and hypotension were considered to be drug related (see PRECAUTIONS: Somnolence 0.6% for placebo and hypotension 1.8% for placebo). **ADVERSE REACTIONS IN LONG-TERM, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIALS: Acute Bipolar Mania: Overall:** Discontinuation due to adverse events were 1% for SERQUEL vs. 1% for placebo. **Schizophrenia:** Overall, there was little difference in the incidence of discontinuation due to adverse events (4% for SERQUEL vs. 3% for placebo) in a pool of controlled trials. 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I never thought I could be myself again

# Now I can


SEROQUEL is indicated for the treatment of acute manic episodes associated with bipolar I disorder and the treatment of schizophrenia. Patients should be periodically reassessed to determine the need for continued treatment.

Prescribing should be consistent with the need to minimize the risk of tardive dyskinesia, seizures, and orthostatic hypotension. A rare condition referred to as neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) has been reported with this class of medications, including SEROQUEL.

There have been reports of diabetes mellitus and hyperglycemia-related adverse events associated with the use of atypical antipsychotics, including SEROQUEL.

The most commonly observed adverse events associated with the use of SEROQUEL in clinical trials were somnolence, dry mouth, dizziness, constipation, asthenia, abdominal pain, postural hypotension, pharyngitis, SGPT increase, dyspepsia, and weight gain.

 **Seroquel**<sup>®</sup>  
quetiapine fumarate  
25 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg & 300 mg tablets

**AstraZeneca**   
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP

To prevent medication errors, write **"SEROQUEL"** clearly  
on your Rx pad. Spell **"SEROQUEL"** clearly over the phone.

Please see Brief Summary of Prescribing Information on following page.

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