

Extrapyramidal symptoms

Extrapyramidal symptoms are side effects from antipsychotic medicines. This sheet tells you more about extrapyramidal symptoms.



How will I know if I have extrapyramidal symptoms?

Not everyone that takes antipsychotic medicines will have extrapyramidal symptoms. But if you do, you may feel these things:

- Your neck, back, jaw or other muscles cramp or feel really tight all of a sudden.
- Your tongue sticks out. This makes it hard to talk, swallow or breathe.
- Your jaw, throat, arms, hips or legs move when you don't want them to.
- You feel really restless and can't sit still.
- You can't show emotions on your face in the way you used to.
- Your legs, arms and other body parts shake.
- You move more slowly than you used to.
- You make strange faces when you don't want to or lick, smack, or pucker your lips.

You may have extrapyramidal symptoms right after you start the medicine. Or you may have them after a few days, weeks, or months.

What do I do if I'm having extrapyramidal symptoms?

- Talk to your doctor so they can help. Sometimes they can give you a medicine to help with the symptoms. Or they may switch you to a different medicine.
- If your symptoms get very bad, go to the emergency room right away.