

HIGH-WEIGHT-GAIN ANTIPSYCHOTIC Side Effects:

Medications in this category: RISPERIDONE (Risperdol), QUETIAPINE (Seroquel), OLANZAPINE (Zyprexa), PALIPERIDONE (Invega), HALOPERIDOL (Haldol), PERPHENAZINE (Trilafon), LOXAPINE (Loxitane), CHLORPROMAZINE (Thorazine)

Most common: sedation, dizziness, restlessness, tremor, stiffness, muscle spasms, mild weight gain (which can lead to high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart problems, strokes, etc.)

Serious but rare: head rush or lightheadedness upon standing (orthostasis), neuroleptic malignant syndrome (potentially fatal syndrome with fever, severe muscle rigidity, high blood pressure), tardive dyskinesia (a syndrome of potentially irreversible, involuntary movements), strokes and higher mortality in elderly patients with dementia.

Pregnancy: Most show no increased risk of birth defects except possibly with low-potency agents (Thorazine). Maternal hyperglycemia, impaired glucose tolerance, and weight gain may lead to maternal complications. Large-for-gestational-age infants reported.

This is a simplified list of side effects focusing on what is common or severe because complete lists of more rare and less serious side effects are often overwhelming. If desired, complete lists of potential side effects can be found on reputable web sites like Drugs.com.