

CLOZAPINE (Clozaril) Side Effects:

Most common: sedation, lightheadedness or fainting upon standing, drooling (place towel on pillow), weight gain (15–30 pound average weight gain after 1 year), constipation (risk of toxic megacolon if untreated), rapid heart rate.

Serious but rare: potentially life-threatening low white blood cell counts (1%–2%) and blood testing must occur every week initially and monthly indefinitely, seizures, heart rhythm changes, strokes and higher mortality in elderly patients with dementia, heart problems (myocarditis, pericarditis, pericardial effusion, cardiomyopathy, and heart failure), pulmonary embolism, less risk of neuroleptic malignant syndrome and tardive dyskinesia than other anti-psychotics but still possible.

Pregnancy: Most show no increased risk of birth defects. 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.