

Aripiprazole for tic disorders

Aripiprazole is a medication that belongs to a class of drugs called atypical antipsychotics. It works by affecting the levels of dopamine and serotonin in the brain. Aripiprazole is used to treat a variety of mental health conditions, including tic disorders.

Tic disorders are neurological conditions that involve involuntary and repetitive movements or vocalizations, called tics. Aripiprazole can be used to treat both motor and vocal tics associated with tic disorders, such as Tourette's syndrome.

Common side effects of aripiprazole may include drowsiness, headache, nausea, vomiting, constipation, and blurred vision. Patients should also be monitored for potential neurological side effects such as tremors, rigidity, and akathisia.

It is important to watch for the development or worsening of depression or suicidal ideation, as aripiprazole carries a black box warning for increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviours in children, adolescents, and young adults.

More serious side effects may include tardive dyskinesia, a movement disorder typically affecting the jaw and tongue, that can occur after prolonged use of antipsychotic medications.

Patients should have their blood pressure, weight, and BMI checked regularly, especially during the first few months of treatment, as aripiprazole may cause weight gain and changes in blood pressure. Additionally, liver function tests should be performed periodically as the medication can affect liver function.

Regular monitoring by a healthcare provider is necessary when taking aripiprazole for tic disorders to assess the medication's effectiveness and monitor for potential side effects. It is important to discuss any concerns or questions with a healthcare provider before starting or stopping aripiprazole for tic disorders.