



Antipsychotic Medications for Your Child



Overview

Your child has a disorder or a syndrome that involves the brain. The doctor says antipsychotics can help. Let's take a moment to learn more about them.

What do they treat?

First, what do we use these drugs for? Well, they were first used to treat psychosis. But we now use them for many conditions. They treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. They treat disruptive behavior disorders. They treat ADHD. That's "attention deficit hyperactivity disorder." And, they treat a range of other issues.

How do they work?

How do these drugs work? They affect the chemicals of the brain. They won't cure your child. But they help control your child's symptoms. They can improve your child's quality of life.

What drugs are available?

There are several antipsychotic medications available. They can affect the brain and body in different ways. We may need to try several before we find the one that's best for your child.

Side effects

These drugs can have side effects. They can cause dizziness, headaches, dry mouth and sleepiness. They may cause weight gain and uncontrollable movements. They can cause early sexual development and other issues. Ask for a full list of possible side effects.

Conclusion

A complete care plan may involve a range of options. Other types of drugs may help. Therapy may help, too. The doctor will create a plan that's right for your child.

