PATIENT INFORMATION

QUETIAPINE TABLETS
in DEMENTIA and DELIRIUM

What is quetiapine?
Quetiapine is an antipsychotic medicine. It is registered by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Why is quetiapine used for dementia and delirium?
People with dementia or delirium sometimes experience agitation, aggression or hallucinations. These symptoms can be distressing. Sometimes they put the person at risk of harming themselves or others around them. In these situations an antipsychotic medicine such as quetiapine may be helpful.

Quetiapine is not registered by the TGA for dementia or delirium. However, low doses of antipsychotic medicines are sometimes used for this purpose. Your doctor has prescribed it because he or she believes it is the best treatment for you at this time.

Quetiapine is used as part of a treatment plan that includes other ways of managing the behavioural symptoms of dementia or delirium. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for information about how you can help manage these symptoms.

What does quetiapine look like?
Quetiapine comes in immediate release tablets and slow release tablets. Usually the immediate release tablets are used for the symptoms of dementia and delirium.

The colour and shape of the tablets depends on the brand dispensed. The original brand was Seroquel®. There are several generic brands available. Ask your pharmacist if you have any questions about the brand or appearance of your tablets.

How do I take quetiapine?
- Take the tablets at the same time each day.
- You can take them with or without food.
- The immediate release tablets can be broken, crushed or chewed. Do not break, crush or chew the slow release tablets.
- The dose is different for every person. Your doctor will prescribe the lowest dose that controls your symptoms. If you are unsure how much to take ask your doctor or pharmacist.