

# SCHIZOPHRENIA

**START & OPTIMIZE A TRIAL OF SGA**

NO RESPONSE

PARTIAL RESPONSE (PR)

**GRADUAL SWITCH: TRIAL OF A DIFFERENT SGA**

PR

NO RESPONSE

**SWITCH: TRIAL OF A DIFFERENT SGA**  
Consider: long-acting injectable

PR

NO RESPONSE

**SWITCH: Consider Clozapine**

PR

NO RESPONSE

**CLOZAPINE AUGMENTATION:**  
Li, mood stabilizers, antidepressants, ECT

PR

NO RESPONSE

**COMBINATION THERAPY: SGA + SGA**  
Note: not much evidence to support this

PR

**OPTIMIZATION: Adjust dosage, treat co-existing sx**

TREAT SIDE EFFECTS

INSOMNIA

**BENZODIAZEPINE**  
**ZOPICLONE**  
**TRAZODONE**  
Use PRN treatments (time-limited)  
If partial or non-response, use another

DEPRESSION

**SSRI**  
**BUPROPION SR**  
**VENLAFAXINE XR**  
**MIRTAZAPINE**  
If partial or non-response, use another  
(not used in acute phase)

AGITATION DUE TO PSYCHOSIS

**MILD SEDATION (PO):**  
LORAZEPAM +/-  
RISPERIDONE/OLANZAPINE/QUETIAPINE  
**MOD-SIGNIFICANT SEDATION (PO/IM):**  
LORAZEPAM + LOXAPINE/HALOPERIDOL  
HALOPERIDOL + ANTIHISTAMINE  
OLANZAPINE IM  
**SEDATION FOR EXTENDED PERIOD (IM):**  
ZUCLOPENTHIXOL ACETATE

PERSISTENT AGGRESSION, HOSTILITY, MOOD LABILITY

**MOOD STABILIZER**  
VPA, lithium, carbamazepine  
**CLOZAPINE**  
If partial or no-response to mood stabilizers

ACUTE DYSTONIA

Involuntary contractions of muscles → uncomfortable repetitive or twisting movements (neck, eyes, jaw, tongue, back)  
**BENZTROPINE**  
2 mg PO/IM/IV STAT, then 1-2 mg bid x 2 days  
**DIPHENHYDRAMINE**  
25-50 mg PO/IV STAT

AKATHESIA

Movement disorder → inner restlessness and a strong need to be in constant motion  
**REDUCE** dose of antipsychotic  
**PROPRANOLOL**  
10 mg qid (20-160 mg/day)  
**(+/-)**  
**BENZODIAZEPINES**  
(poor evidence)  
**MIRTAZAPINE**  
15 mg hs

PSEUDO PARKINSONISM

Tremors, rigidity, mask-like face, slow thinking, salivation  
**REDUCE** dose of antipsychotic  
**CHANGE** antipsychotic  
**ORAL ANTICHOLINERGIC**  
**BENZTROPINE** 1 mg bid (2-6 mg/day)  
**TRIHEXPENIDYL** 2 mg bid (4-12 mg/day)  
(Review anticholinergics q3m)

TARDIVE DYSKINESIA

Involuntary movements; repetitive purposeless movements  
**REDUCE** dose of antipsychotic  
**SWITCH** to SGA antipsychotic  
**SWITCH** to clozapine or quetiapine

NEUROLEPTIC MALIGNANT SYNDROME

Life-threatening but rare: muscle rigidity, confusion, fluctuating consciousness, diaphoresis, fever, hyperthermia, fluctuating blood pressure, tachycardia  
**DISCONTINUE** antipsychotic  
**BROMOCRIPTINE + DANTROLENE**  
**AMANTADINE**