Therapeutic Class Overview
Oral Atypical (Second-Generation) Antipsychotics

Therapeutic Class Overview/Summary:
This overview will focus on the atypical antipsychotics, which are also known as second-generation antipsychotics (SGAs).[1-16] While several atypical antipsychotics are formulated as long-acting injections, these formulations will not be covered in this review. Antipsychotic medications have been used for over fifty years to treat schizophrenia and a variety of other psychiatric disorders.[17] Schizophrenia is believed to be caused by an increase in the cerebral activity of dopamine D_2 in the mesolimbic and/or mesocortical regions of the brain. Antipsychotic medications exert their effect in part by blocking D_2 receptors. It is the blockade of these receptors in the mesolimbic pathway that is believed to contribute to desired antipsychotic effects, especially improvement of positive symptoms associated with the disorder.[18]

In addition to blocking D_2 receptors in the mesolimbic pathway, FGAs also block D_2 receptors in the mesocortical, tuberoinfundibular, and nigrostriatal pathways.[18] D_2 blockade in these other pathways is thought to be responsible for the hyperprolactinemia and extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) associated with this class.[19] FGAs may be characterized according to their affinity for the D_2 receptor. Low potency antipsychotics, such as chlorpromazine and thioridazine, are more sedating and associated with a higher incidence of anticholinergic side effects. Fluphenazine, haloperidol, pimozide, thiothixene, and trifluoperazine are high potency antipsychotics that are less sedating but associated with a higher incidence of EPS. The medium potency antipsychotics (loxapine, molindone, and perphenazine) possess a moderate risk of EPS and anticholinergic side effects.[20] With the exception of pimozide, all FGAs are indicated for use in the treatment of schizophrenia. FGAs are effective in the treatment of positive symptoms of schizophrenia, which include agitation, aggression, delusions, and hallucinations. Negative symptoms of schizophrenia which include avolition, anhedonia, alogia, affective flattening, and social withdrawal, do not respond as well to this antipsychotic class.[19] Pimozide is indicated only for the suppression of motor and phonic tics in patients with Tourette's disorder.

The term "atypical antipsychotic" was introduced in 1989 when clozapine was approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Originally, this term referred to an antipsychotic with a low risk of EPS.[18] As a class, SGAs or atypical antipsychotics are more selective in targeting the mesolimbic D_2 pathway. They also block or partially block serotonin $(5\text{-HT})_{2A}$ and 5-HT_{1A} receptors and have a greater affinity for 5-HT_2 receptors than D_2 receptors.[18,20] These differences in neuropharmacologic activity are associated with a lower risk of EPS and tardive dyskinesia; the risks vary with the specificity of each agent for D_2 and serotonin receptors.[18,20] Atypical antipsychotics have a more favorable outcome in the treatment of the negative symptoms of schizophrenia.[18] The SGAs are comprised of nine separate chemical entities, each with a unique neuropharmacologic and adverse event profile, mechanism of action, and chemical structure. The SGAs are aripiprazole, asenapine, brexpiprazole clozapine, cariprazine, iloperidone, lurasidone, olanzapine, paliperidone, pimavanserin, quetiapine, risperidone and ziprasidone.

Although in some respects the SGAs are safer and better tolerated than the FGAs, they are still associated with a number of serious risks and side effects. For this reason, the FDA has required various warnings to be inserted in the manufacturers' product information for these agents. All agents have a black box waring regarding an increased risk of death when used in the treatment of psychosis and behavioral problems in elderly patients with dementia. Most of the deaths that prompted the addition of the warning were due to cardiac-related events (e.g., heart failure or sudden death) or infection.[21] Of note, atypical antipsychotics are not FDA-approved for this indication. With the exception of pimavanserin, all atypical antipsychotics bear a warning that alerts prescribers and patients to the risk of hyperglycemia and other metabolic changes.[1-16] Aripiprazole, brexpiprazole, lurasidone and quetiapine carry a black box warning regarding suicidality and antidepressant drugs.[1,3,9,13,14] Ziprasidone also has a warning concerning QTc interval prolongation; however, all of the SGAs can increase the QTc interval to some degree.[16]

Due to the potential side-effect risks associated with these medications, any off-label use deserves close attention. Data published in peer-reviewed journals and in national and international guidelines support the use of SGAs as a treatment option for certain off-label uses. In many of these scenarios, SGAs are reserved for patients who are refractory to other first-line treatment modalities, including both pharmacotherapy and psychotherapy, and used in adjunction to mainstream therapies, as part of a multimodal approach.

Over the past 20 years, antipsychotic use in children and adolescents has grown. In the United States, the frequency of prescribing an antipsychotic agent increased from 8.6 per 1000 children in 1996 to 39.4 per 1000 children in 2002. According to a survey of national trends in the outpatient use of antipsychotics in children and adolescents, only 14.2% of antipsychotic prescriptions in children were for patients diagnosed with psychotic disorders.[24] Indications commonly associated with antipsychotic prescribing in pediatric patients include psychosis, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, aggressive and disruptive behavior, and tic disorders. Off-label indications with limited available evidence for the use of atypical antipsychotics in children and adolescents include autistic spectrum disorders, major depressive disorder, anxiety disorders, and eating disorders. At this time, risperidone and aripiprazole are FDA-approved for the management of children and adolescents with autism (aged 5 to 16 and 6 to 17 years, respectively). Moreover, the following agents are indicated for the treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents: aripiprazole, olanzapine, paliperidone, quetiapine, and risperidone. Aripiprazole, asenapine, olanzapine, quetiapine and risperidone are FDA-approved for the treatment of manic or mixed bipolar I disorder in children and adolescents. None of the other available atypical antipsychotic agents are currently indicated for use in pediatric patients.[1-16]

Concerns have also been raised about the risks of combination therapy with the antipsychotics, which can multiply the risks of dangerous adverse events. The practice of polypharmacy is not supported by well-designed clinical trials published in the peer-reviewed literature. However, national and international consensus guidelines consider this approach in patients with treatment-refractory illness.

Table 1. Current Medications Available in Therapeutic Class[1-16]

Generic Name (Trade name)	Food and Drug Administration Approved Indications	Dosage Form/Strength	Generic Availability
Aripiprazole (Abilify®*, Abilify Discmelt®*)	Acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults; acute or maintenance treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years; adjunctive therapy to either lithium or valproate for the acute treatment of manic and mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder with or without psychotic features in adults and in pediatric patients aged 10 to 17 years; maintenance treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults; treatment of agitation associated with bipolar I disorder, manic or mixed in adults; acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults; treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents aged 13 to 17; treatment of schizophrenia in adults; adjunctive treatment to antidepressants for major depressive disorder in adults; irritability associated with autistic disorder in children and adolescents aged six to 17 years	Injection: 7.5 mg/mL Orally disintegrating tablet: 10 mg 15 mg Oral solution: 1 mg/mL Tablet: 2 mg 5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg 30 mg	✔

Generic Name (Trade name)	Food and Drug Administration Approved Indications	Dosage Form/Strength	Generic Availability
Asenapine (Saphris®)	Acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults or adolescents (10 to 17 years of age); adjunctive therapy to either lithium or valproate for the acute treatment of manic and mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder; acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults	Sublingual tablet: 2.5 mg 5 mg 10 mg	-
Brexpiprazole (Rexulti®)	Adjunctive treatment to antidepressants for major depressive disorder in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adults	Tablet: 0.25 mg 0.5 mg 1 mg 2 mg 3 mg 4 mg	-
Cariprazine (Vraylar®)	Acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults; treatment of schizophrenia	Capsule: 1.5 mg 3 mg 4.5 mg 6 mg Capsule, dose-pack: 1.5/3 mg	-
Clozapine (Fazaclo ODT®*, Clozaril®*, Versacloz®)	Reduction in the risk of recurrent suicidal behavior in schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder in adults; treatment-resistant schizophrenia in adults	Orally disintegrating tablet: 12.5 mg 25 mg 100 mg 150 mg 200 mg Tablet: 25 mg 50 mg 100 mg Suspension: 50 mg/mL	✔
Iloperidone (Fanapt®)	Treatment of schizophrenia in adults	Tablet: 1 mg 2 mg 4 mg 6 mg 8 mg 10 mg 12 mg Dose Pack: 1/2/4/6 mg	-
Lurasidone	Treatment of schizophrenia in adults, treatment	Tablet:	-

Generic Name (Trade name)	Food and Drug Administration Approved Indications	Dosage Form/Strength	Generic Availability
(Latuda®)	of depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder in adults	20 mg 40 mg 80 mg 60 mg 120 mg	
Olanzapine (Zyprexa®*, Zyprexa Zydis®*)	Acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults; acute or maintenance treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years; adjunctive therapy to either lithium or valproate for the acute treatment of manic and mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder; maintenance treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults; treatment of agitation associated with bipolar I disorder, manic or mixed in adults; treatment of agitation associated with bipolar I mania in adults; treatment of depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder in adults; acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults; treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents aged 13 to 17; adjunctive treatment to antidepressants for major depressive disorder in adults	Injection: 10 mg vials Orally disintegrating tablet: 5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg Tablet: 2.5 mg 5 mg 7.5 mg 10 mg 15 mg 20 mg	✔
Paliperidone (Invega®*)	Acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents aged 12 to 17; treatment of schizoaffective disorder as monotherapy and as an adjunct to mood stabilizers and/or antidepressants in adults	Extended-release tablet: 1.5 mg 3 mg 6 mg 9 mg	✔
Pimavanserin (Nuplazid®)	Hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson's disease psychosis	Tablet: 17 mg	-
Quetiapine (Seroquel®*, Seroquel XR®)	Maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder as adjunct therapy to lithium or divalproex in adults; treatment of acute manic episodes associated with bipolar I disorder as either monotherapy or adjunct therapy to lithium or divalproex in adults; treatment of acute manic episodes associated with bipolar I disorder as either monotherapy or adjunct therapy to lithium or divalproex in children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years; treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder as either monotherapy or adjunct therapy to lithium or divalproex in adults; treatment of depressive episodes associated with bipolar disorder in adults; acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents aged 13 to 17; treatment of schizophrenia in adults; adjunctive treatment to antidepressants for major	Extended-release tablet: 50 mg 150 mg 200 mg 300 mg 400 mg Tablet: 25 mg 50 mg 100 mg 200 mg 300 mg 400 mg	✔

Generic Name (Trade name)	Food and Drug Administration Approved Indications	Dosage Form/Strength	Generic Availability
	depressive disorder in adults		
Risperidone (Risperdal®*, Risperdal M-Tab®*)	Adjunctive therapy to lithium or valproate for the maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder; maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder as adjunct therapy to lithium or valproate in adults; short-term treatment of acute manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults and in children and adolescents aged 10 to 17 years; short-term treatment of acute mixed or manic episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in combination with lithium or valproate in adults; acute and maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adolescents aged 13 to 17; irritability associated with autistic disorder in children and adolescents aged five to 16 years	Orally disintegrating tablet: 0.25 0.5 mg 1 mg 2 mg 3 mg 4 mg Oral solution: 1 mg/mL Tablet: 0.25 mg 0.5 mg 1 mg 2 mg 3 mg 4 mg	✔
Ziprasidone (Geodon®*)	Acute treatment of manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar I disorder in adults; maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder as adjunct therapy to lithium or valproate in adults; treatment of acute manic or mixed episodes associated with bipolar disorder; treatment of agitation associated with schizophrenia in adults; treatment of schizophrenia in adults	Capsule: 20 mg 40 mg 60 mg 80 mg Injection: 20 mg/mL	✔

*Generic available in at least one dosage form and/or strength.

Evidence-based Medicine

- The Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness (CATIE) was a large, multi-center study initiated by the National Institute of Mental Health to examine the effectiveness of second generation antipsychotics (SGAs) compared to first generation antipsychotics (FGAs) in patients with chronic schizophrenia.[48-50] Among the unexpected outcomes was the finding that, with the exception of clozapine, the SGAs did not separate out as robustly from the FGAs with respect to overall efficacy and times to treatment discontinuation.
    - Due to relatively high discontinuation rates across all treatment arms, potential biases regarding optimal dosing of individual drugs, and clear differences in treatment-emergent side effect profiles, the implications of CATIE are subject to interpretation which may preclude definitive guidance in developing pharmacotherapy guidelines for patients with schizophrenia as a whole.
- The role of the SGAs has been clearly established in the treatment of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia (and, in the case of aripiprazole, quetiapine extended-release and olanzapine/fluoxetine combination therapy, as adjunctive treatment of major depressive disorder).
- Meta-analyses evaluating the roles of available atypical antipsychotics in the treatment of schizophrenia suggest that all agents are significantly more effective than placebo.[51-63,75-79] The trends for respective efficacy suggest that clozapine is the most effective agent in the class, followed by olanzapine and risperidone. Aripiprazole tended to exhibit lower efficacy than the other agents.[51-63,75-79]

- A meta-analysis in adult patients with bipolar disorder found risperidone to be the most effective treatment option (taking into account both efficacy and tolerability).[75] The next best treatment options, in order of decreased efficacy, were olanzapine, haloperidol, quetiapine, carbamazepine, aripiprazole, valproate, lithium, and ziprasidone. Lamotrigine, topiramate and gabapentin were found to be less effective than placebo.
- In the management of major depressive disorder, aripiprazole, quetiapine, and risperidone augmentation therapies were associated with improved outcomes.[84]
- The efficacy and safety of brexpiprazole in the treatment of schizophrenia was demonstrated by two pivotal multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled six week trials, VECTOR and BEACON.[29,30] Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) scores were significantly improved with brexpiprazole when compared to placebo. Treatment differences were -8.72 (P<0.0001), -7.64 (P=0.0006) and -6.47 (P=0.0022) for brexpiprazole 2 mg, 4 mg, and 4 mg respectively.[29,30]
- The efficacy of cariprazine for the treatment of schizophrenia was established in three, 6-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials in patients with a diagnosis of schizophrenia. In each study, the primary endpoint was change from baseline in PANSS total score at the end of week six.[4,35,36] There was a significant improvement in PANSS when each fixed-dose or flexable-dose range cariprazine group was compared to placebo (P value varies; all significant when reported).[4,35,36]
- The efficacy of cariprazine in the acute treatment of bipolar mania was established in three, three-week placebo-controlled trials in patients with a diagnosis of bipolar I disorder with manic or mixed episodes with or without psychotic features. In each study, the primary endpoint was decrease from baseline in Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS) total score at the end of week three.[4,69,70] In the first study, there was a demonstrated improvement with cariprazine dose groups (3 to 6 mg/day or 6 to 12 mg/day) compared to placebo on the YMRS total score (-P<0.05 for both comparisons). However, the 6 to 12 mg/day dose group showed no additional advantage.[4,69] In the second study, there was a demonstrated improvement with cariprazine (3 to 12 mg/day) compared to placebo on the YMRS total score (15.0 vs. -8.9, respectively; P<0.05).[4] In the third study, cariprazine (3 to 12 mg/day) was superior to placebo on the YMRS total score (19.6 vs. -15.3, respectively; P<0.05).[4,70]
- The efficacy of asenapine in the treatment of schizophrenia in adults has been evaluated in four, published, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, and active-controlled (haloperidol, risperidone, and olanzapine) trials, ranging in duration from six weeks to one year[31-34]. The efficacy and safety of asenapine in the treatment of manic or mixed bipolar I disorder were evaluated in five placebo-controlled, and active-controlled (olanzapine) studies in adult patients, with or without psychotic features.[64-68]
    - In a direct-comparison study, asenapine was less effective than olanzapine in terms of changes from baseline in PANSS and Clinical Global Impression-Severity of Illness (CGI-S) scores.[34] Study discontinuation due to inadequate efficacy was noted in 14% of patients receiving olanzapine compared to 25% of patients in the asenapine group. Mean weight gain was 0.9 kg with asenapine and 4.2 kg with olanzapine.[34] In another study, clinically significant weight gain was noted in 17% of patients receiving risperidone and 9% of patients in the asenapine group.[31]
    - In a pooled analysis of patients experiencing bipolar mania, asenapine and olanzapine were comparable in terms of reduction from baseline in Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS) scores at week-52 of therapy.[68]
    - A meta-analysis of various antimanic therapy options, found that asenapine was associated with a statistically significant improvement in YMRS scores from baseline compared to placebo (mean difference, -0.30; -0.53 to -0.07), though it was less effective compared to olanzapine (0.22; 0.08 to 0.37).[75]
- Iloperidone has been studied as monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with an acute or subacute exacerbation of schizophrenia.
    - Three six-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo- and active comparator (risperidone and haloperidol)-controlled studies found iloperidone to be significantly more effective than placebo.[39]

  - One four-week, placebo- and active- comparator (ziprasidone)-controlled study found a significant improvement in PANSS scores with iloperidone therapy compared to placebo.[38]
- Lurasidone has been investigated for the treatment of adult patients with acute and chronic symptoms of schizophrenia in two six-week, placebo-controlled studies and two 21-day studies directly comparing the safety and efficacy of lurasidone 120 mg once daily with ziprasidone 80 mg twice daily.[44-47]
  - Lurasidone and ziprasidone were comparable in terms of reduction in total PANSS, PANSS positive symptom, PANSS general symptom, CGI-S scores and several cognition scales.[41-42] In addition, both drugs were comparable in terms of rates of discontinuation for any reason rate and discontinuation due to adverse events.[45,46] Both therapies were associated with a small weight loss from baseline and neither therapy was associated with a clinically significant ECG abnormality.
  - Of note, lurasidone was more effective in improving negative symptom PANSS scores compared to ziprasidone (*P*=0.046).[46]
- The safety and efficacy of pimavanserin for the treatment of hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson's disease psychosis was established in a single, six-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in 185 patients. Patients in the pimavanserin group experienced a greater decrease in Parkinson's Disease-Adapted Scale for Assessment of Positive Symptoms Scores compared to placebo (-5.79 and -2.73, respectively, 95% CI, -4.91 to -1.20; P=0.001). Pimavanserin was well tolerated, with no worsening of motor function or significant safety concerns.[12,291]
- Available evidence suggests that, except for clozapine, olanzapine is associated with greater weight gain compared to all other atypical antipsychotic agents. In contrast, ziprasidone is associated with a low incidence of weight gain.[221]
- Data from the Food and Drug Administration Adverse Reporting System (AERS) indicates that the risk of experiencing a diabetes-related adverse event is greatest with olanzapine, followed by risperidone, and least with ziprasidone and aripiprazole, across all age groups.[250]
- Risperidone is associated with the greatest risk of prolactin elevation-related adverse events.[51-63,75-79,267]
- Risperidone, aripiprazole and ziprasidone are associated with a high incidence of extrapyramidal adverse events.[229] Quetiapine is associated with the least risk of extrapyramidal adverse events.[229]
- The incidence of sexual dysfunction was noted to be higher with the use of olanzapine, risperidone, and clozapine than with quetiapine, ziprasidone or aripiprazole.[233]
- The Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is the lead federal agency for research on healthcare quality, costs, outcomes and patient safety. In 2011, AHRQ had issued an update to a prior 2007 review of scientific evidence on the safety and effectiveness of atypical antipsychotics for off-labeled use.[85,196]
  - Indications associated with moderate/high strength of evidence for the use of atypical antipsychotics included general anxiety disorder (quetiapine), dementia (aripiprazole, olanzapine, risperidone), depression (aripiprazole, quetiapine, risperidone), augmentation of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors for obsessive compulsive disorder [OCD] (risperidone), and post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD] (risperidone).[96] Refer to Appendices IIa and IIb for additional details.
- The AHRQ had conducted a systematic review of literature on the safety and efficacy of antipsychotics in children and adolescents.[102,103] For details, refer to Appendices IIIa and IIIB.
  - Indications associated with moderate strength evidence for the use of atypical antipsychotics included disruptive behavior disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and Tourette's syndrome.
  - No significant differences between the different atypical antipsychotics were noted in the identified head-to-head comparisons.
  - The risks of weight gain (weight gain: 4.6 kg) and dyslipidemia were highest with olanzapine. Weight gain with ziprasidone was not significantly different from placebo. The other atypical antipsychotics were associated with intermediate weight gain.

  - Risperidone was associated with the greatest incidence of prolactin-related adverse events (consistent with adult data).
  - Extrapyramidal adverse events were significantly more common with risperidone and aripiprazole compared to placebo.
- According to a systematic review by Safer et al, weight gain secondary to atypical antipsychotics is greater in children and adolescents than in adults.[264]

Key Points within the Medication Class

- According to Current Clinical Guidelines:
  - Antipsychotics are a mainstay in therapy for schizophrenia.[314-316]
  - Lithium, valproate and/or antipsychotics are recommended as initial therapy of bipolar disorder.[301-304]
  - The American Psychiatric Association guideline recommends the use of antipsychotics for the management of psychosis or agitation in patients with dementia.[305]
  - For the treatment of anxiety disorders, sertraline is recommended as a first-line pharmacotherapeutic agent.[299,300] Second-line treatment options include serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) or switching to alternative selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). Augmentation therapy with antipsychotics is an option in treatment-refractory patients but the guidelines recommend that initiation of combination therapy be limited to specialists.
  - In major depressive disorder, first-line treatment options include SSRIs, SNRIs, bupropion or mirtazapine.[308-310] Antipsychotic augmentation therapy is an option for patients who have failed antidepressant monotherapy.
  - In obsessive compulsive disorder, SSRIs and cognitive behavioral therapy are recommended as first-line treatment options.[311] Patients who have failed an SSRI trial may be offered augmentation therapy with an antipsychotic or cognitive behavioral therapy. Similarly, SSRIs and SNRIs are considered to be first-line treatment options for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).[312,313]
  - Atypical antipsychotics may be used as adjunctive therapy for the management of treatment-refractory PTSD.[312]
  - For the treatment of hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson's disease psychosis (PDP), guidelines recommend the use of atypical antipsychotics, specifically clozapine or quetiapine, which have the most clinical data to support use. Both clinical guidelines recommend against the use of olanzapine for PDP due limited efficacy.[317-318]
  - The European Society for the Study of Tourette Syndrome guideline recommends risperidone as a first-line agent for the treatment of tics.[329] Aripiprazole has a role in treatment-refractory patients.
  - The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) guideline acknowledges that atypical antipsychotics are the most commonly prescribed class of drugs for the treatment of maladaptive aggression, regardless of diagnosis; yet emphasize that pharmacotherapy should not be used as the only intervention in children with oppositional defiant disorder.[325]
  - Although the antipsychotics are not addressed in national and international insomnia treatment guidelines, the National Institute of Health (NIH) Consensus and State-of-the-Science Statement on Manifestations and Management of Chronic Insomnia in Adults state that due to the lack of evidence supporting the short and long term efficacy of antipsychotics, in addition to their significant risks, their use in the treatment of chronic insomnia cannot be recommended.[331]
  - In a practice guideline on the use of atypical antipsychotics in children and adolescents, issued by the AACAP in 2011, the panel recommends that prior to initiation of antipsychotic therapy patients should undergo a thorough diagnostic assessment, evaluation for comorbid medical conditions and concomitant medications.[329] Furthermore, a multidisciplinary plan that includes education and psychotherapy should be established. The prescriber should also have a thorough discussion of the risks and benefits of psychotropic medication.

- Of the atypical antipsychotics, risperidone is recognized as an agent with the most substantial amount of methodologically stringent evidence for use in pediatric patients.[329]
- There is almost no data to support the use of atypical antipsychotics in pre-school aged children.[329] The guideline recommends a marked amount of caution before using these agents in pre-schoolers.
- Given the risk of metabolic side-effects, pediatric patients receiving atypical antipsychotic therapy should be closely monitored for changes in weight, blood pressure, fasting plasma glucose and lipid profile.[329]

Table 2. Evidence for the Use of Atypical Antipsychotics in Pediatrics (2011 AACAP guideline)[318]

	Clozapine	Risperidone	Olanzapine	Quetiapine	Ziprasi-done	Aripiprazole
Schizophrenia/ Psychosis	+++	+++*	++++*	++++*	+	++++*
Bipolar Disorder	++	+++*	+++*	++++*	+++	+++*
Disruptive behavior disorders/ Aggression	++	+++	+++	++	+	+
Autism/ PDD irritability	+	++++*	+++	+	+	++++*
Tourette's/tics		++++	+		+++	
PTSD	+					
Eating Disorder			+			
Long-term safety studies		+		+		

PDD=pervasive developmental disorder; PTSD=post-traumatic stress disorder
++++ Multiple randomized controlled studies
+++ One randomized controlled study
++ Uncontrolled study
+ Case studies
* FDA approved in children and/or adolescents

- Other Key Facts:
  - Paliperidone is an active metabolite of risperidone and therefore carries some similarity in chemical structure and pharmacologic effects with the parent drug.
  - The use of clozapine is limited due to a risk of agranulocytosis.
  - Aripiprazole, clozapine, olanzapine, paliperidone, quetiapine, risperidone and ziprasidone are available generically.
  - Pimavanserin has a unique indication among atypical antipsychotics, the treatment of hallucinations and delusions associated with PDP.[12]

Appendix I: Summary of the Strength of Evidence for Off-Label Efficacy Outcomes (adopted from 2011 AHRQ systematic review)[196]

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
Dementia	**High**	The 2011 meta-analysis of PCTs, aripiprazole, olanzapine, and risperidone were superior to placebo as treatment of behavioral symptoms as measured by total scores on BEHAVE-AD, BPRS, and NPI. Effect sizes were generally considered to be "small"	Aripiprazole, olanzapine, and risperidone **have efficacy** as treatment for behavioral symptoms of dementia.

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
		in magnitude. Psychosis –risperidone was superior to placebo, as measured by thepsychosis subscales of the BEHAVE-AD, BPRS, and NPI. Results for aripiprazole did not meet conventional levels of statistical significance. Agitation – Aripiprazole, olanzapine and risperidone were superior to placebo, as measured by the agitation subscales of the BEHAVE-AD, BPRS, NPI, and CMAI. Three head to head trials compared atypicals; none was found superior.	
Depression			
Augmentation of SSRI/SNRI	**Moderate** (risperidone, aripiprazole, quetiapine) **Low** (olanzapine, ziprasidone)	The meta-analysis used "response" to treatment and remission as outcome. Pooling trials that reported the HAM-D as outcome, the relative risk of responding for participants taking quetiapine or risperidone was significantly higher than for placebo. Other trials reported MADRS scores; the relative risk of responding for participants taking aripiprazole was significantly higher than those taking placebo. Risperidone was included in two trials. These reported the drug superior to placebo. The relative risk of responding for participants taking aripiprazole was significantly higher than those taking placebo. Olanzapine had only two trials, so pooling was not performed; the trials reported olanzapine superior to placebo. In one available ziprasidone trial, the drug was superior to placebo in terms of MADRS scores. One trial compared ziprasidone at differing levels augmenting	Aripiprazole, quetiapine, and risperidone **have efficacy** as augmentation to SSRIs/SNRIs for major depressive disorder. Olanzapine and ziprasidone **may also have efficacy.**

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
		sertraline to sertraline alone. This trial found a greater improvement in CGI-S and MADRS scores augmenting with ziprasidone at 160mg than either augmentation with ziprasidone at 80mg or sertraline alone. However, there was no significant difference in HAMD-17, CGI-I or HAM-A scores.	
Monotherapy	**Moderate**	Olanzapine alone was no better than placebo in improving symptoms at six or 12 weeks in three trials. Outcomes were too heterogeneous to allow pooling. In five PCTs, quetiapine was superior according to relative risk of both responding and remitted as measured by MADRS.	Olanzapine **does not have efficacy** as monotherapy for major depressive disorder. Quetiapine **has efficacy** as monotherapy for major depressive disorder er
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)			
Augmentation of SSRIs	**Moderate** (risperidone) **Low** (olanzapine)	The 2006 meta-analysis pooled results of nine trials of risperidone, olanzapine, or quetiapine as augmentation therapy in patients who were resistant to treatment with SSRI. Atypical antipsychotics had a clinically important benefit, (measured by the Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale (YBOCS), when used as augmentation therapy. Relative risk of "responding" significant for augmentation with quetiapine and risperidone. The updated 2011 meta-analysis found risperidone superior to placebo, as measured by changes in the Y-BOCS. There were too few studies (two) of olanzapine augmentation to permit separate pooling of this drug. Both trials reported olanzapine superior to placebo. One new head to head trial found no difference in effect between olanzapine and risperidone as SSRI augmentation. One new head to head trial found	Risperidone **has efficacy** in improving OCD symptoms when used as an adjunct to SSRI in treatment refractory patients. Olanzapine **may have efficacy.** Quetiapine is more **efficacious** than ziprasidone and clomipramine. e.

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
		quetiapine more effective than ziprasidone as SSRI augmentation. In one new trial, quetiapine produced a significant reduction in Y-BOCS score, while clomipramine did not.	
Augmentation of citalopram	**Low** (quetiapine) **Very low** (risperidone)	One trial of risperidone reported no differences between groups in achieving a response to therapy, but patients maintained on risperidone had a significantly longer period of time to relapse compared to placebo (102 vs 85 days). Two trials found quetiapine superior to placebo as augmentation for citalopram, according to Y-BOCS and CGI-I scores.	Quetiapine and risperidone **may be efficacious** as augmentation to citalopram in OCD patients.
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	**Moderate** (risperidone) **Low** (Olanzapine) **Very Low** (Quetiapine)	Three trials enrolled men with combat-related PTSD; these showed a benefit in sleep quality, depression, anxiety, and overall symptoms when risperidone or olanzapine was used to augment therapy with antidepressants or other psychotropic medication. Three trials of olanzapine or risperidone as monotherapy for abused women with PTSD were inconclusive regarding efficacy. One trial found a three-fold decline in PTSD Scale (CAPS) scores in patients treated with quetiapine monotherapy compared to placebo. There were too few olanzapine studies (two) to pool; one reported olanzapine superior to placebo, while one did not. A meta-analysis of risperidone, using CAPS scores as outcome, found risperidone to be superior to placebo. In a meta-analysis by condition, atypical antipsychotics were	Risperidone is **efficacious** in reducing combat-related PTSD symptoms when used as an adjunct to primary medication.

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
		efficacious for combat-related PTSD but not PTSD in abused women.	
Personality Disorders			
Borderline	**Low** (aripiprazole) **Very low** (quetiapine, olanzapine)	Four trials provide evidence that olanzapine is superior to placebo and may be superior to fluoxetine. The benefit of adding olanzapine to dialectical therapy in one trial was small. Two trials of olanzapine found no difference from placebo in any outcomes compared to placebo. Aripiprazole was superior to placebo in one small trial. Another trial found aripiprazole superior to placebo in improving SCL-90, HAM-D, and HAM-A scores at 8 months and less self-injury at 18 months. A trial of ziprasidone found no significant difference in CGI-BPD, depressive, anxiety, psychotic or impulsive symptoms compared to placebo at 12 weeks. One trial found quetiapine to be superior to placebo on BPRS and PANSS scales. Due to heterogeneity of outcomes, a meta-analysis could not be performed.	Olanzapine had **mixed results** in seven trials, aripiprazole was found **efficacious** in two trials, quetiapine was found **efficacious** in one trial, and ziprasidone was found **not efficacious** in one trial.
Schizotypal	**Low**	Risperidone was superior to placebo in one small trial. In another trial risperidone was found to be no different from placebo on a cognitive assessment battery.	Risperidone had **mixed results** when used to treat schizotypal personality disorder in two small trials.
Tourette's Syndrome	**Low**	Risperidone was superior to placebo in one small trial, and it was at least as effective as pimozide or clonidine for eight to 12 weeks of therapy in the three other trials. One trial of ziprasidone showed variable efficacy compared to placebo.	Risperidone **is at least as efficacious as pimozide or clonidine** for Tourette's syndrome.
Anxiety	**Moderate**	Three placebo-controlled trials of quetiapine as monotherapy for Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) could be pooled; relative	Quetiapine **has efficacy** as treatment for Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
		risk of responding on HAM-A favored the quetiapine group. One head to head trial showed no difference between risperidone and paroxetine on HAM-A score improvement. One trial each found quetiapine equally effective as paroxetine and escitalopram.	
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder			
No comorbidity	**Low**	One trial showed risperidone superior to placebo in reducing scores on the Children's Aggression Scale–Parent version (CAS-P).	Risperidone **may be efficacious** in treating children with ADHD with no serious co-occurring disorders.
Mental retardation	**Low**	One trial showed risperidone led to greater reduction in SNAP-IV (Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham teacher & parent rating scale) scores than methylphenidate.	Risperidone **may be superior to methylphenidate** in treating ADHD symptoms in mentally retarded children.
Bipolar	**Low**	Two trials of aripiprazole showed no effect on SNAP-IV (Swanson, Nolan, and Pelham teacher & parent rating scale) scores than placebo.	Aripiprazole is **inefficacious** in reducing ADHD symptoms in children with bipolar disorder.
Eating Disorders	**Moderate** (olanzapine) **Low** (quetiapine)	In a pooled analysis of three trials, there was no difference in change in BMI at either one or three months with olanzapine compared to placebo. One trial of quetiapine reported no statistical difference from placebo in BMI increase at three months.	Olanzapine and quetiapine **have no efficacy** in increasing body mass in eating disorder patients.
Insomnia	**Very Low**	In one small trial (N=13) of quetiapine, sleep outcomes were not statistically different from placebo.	Quetiapine may be **inefficacious** in treating insomnia.
Substance Abuse			
Alcohol	**Moderate** (aripiprazole) **Low** (quetiapine)	Two trials of aripiprazole and one of quetiapine reported percentage of patients completely abstinent during follow-up. In a pooled analysis, the effect vs placebo was insignificant.	Aripiprazole is **inefficacious** in treating alcohol abuse/ dependence. Quetiapine may also be **inefficacious.**
Cocaine	**Low**	Two trials of olanzapine and one of risperidone reported there was no difference in efficacy vs placebo as measured by the Addiction Severity Index (ASI).	Olanzapine is **inefficacious** in treating cocaine abuse /dependence. Risperidone may also be

Indication	Strength of Evidence	Findings	Conclusions
			inefficacious.
Meth-amphetamine	**Low**	One trial found aripiprazole inefficacious in reducing use of intravenous amphetamine, as measured by urinalysis. Another trial found aripiprazole inefficacious in reducing craving for methamphetamine.	Aripiprazole is **inefficacious** in treating methamphetamine abuse/ dependence.
Methadone	**Low**	One trial of methadone-treated patients found no difference between risperidone and placebo in reduction of cocaine or heroin use.	Risperidone is an **inefficacious** adjunct to methadone maintenance

ADHD=attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder; BEHAVE-AD=Behavioral Pathology in Alzheimer's Disease Scale; BPRS=Brief Psychiatric Rating Scale; CGI-BPD=Clinical Global Impression Scale for Borderline Personality Disorder; CGI-I=Clinical Global Impression Improvement; CGI-S=Clinical Global Impression-Severity; CMAI =Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory; HAM-A = Hamilton Anxiety Scale; HAM-D=Hamilton Depression Rating Scale; MADRS=Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale; MDD=major depressive disorder; NPI=Neuropsychiatric Inventory; OCD=obsessive-compulsive disorder; PANSS=Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale; PCT=placebo-controlled trial; PTSD=post-traumatic stress disorder; SSRI=selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor; SNRI=serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors; ZAN-BPD=Zanarini Rating Scale for Borderline Personality Disorder

Appendix II: Summary of Adverse Events of Atypical Antipsychotics for Off-Label Use (adopted from 2011 AHRQ systematic review)[196]

Adverse Event	Head-to-Head Studies	Active Comparator Studies	Placebo-Controlled Studies
Weight Gain			
Elderly	In one large trial (CATIE-AD) patients who were treated with olanzapine, quetiapine, or risperidone averaged a monthly gain of 1.0, 0.7, and 0.4 lbs respectively, compared to a monthly weight loss of 0.9 lbs for placebo patients.	More common in patients taking olanzapine than risperidone or conventional antipsychotics, particularly if their BMI was less than 25 at baseline, according to a large cohort study.	According to the meta-analysis, more common in patients taking olanzapine and risperidone than placebo.
Adults	More common in olanzapine patients than ziprasidone patients in one trial.	More common among patients taking olanzapine than patients taking conventional antipsychotics in three trials. More common in patients taking aripiprazole than patients taking conventional antipsychotics in one	According to the meta-analysis, more common in patients taking aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine, and risperidone than placebo.

Adverse Event	Head-to-Head Studies	Active Comparator Studies	Placebo-Controlled Studies
		trial. More common among patients taking olanzapine than patients taking mood stabilizers in two trials.	
Children/Adolescents	No head to head studies	No difference between clonidine and risperidone in one trial.	More common in patients taking risperidone in two PCTs. No difference in one small PCT of ziprasidone.
Mortality-in the elderly	No difference between olanzapine and risperidone according to a meta-analysis of six trials of olanzapine published in 2006.	Six large cohort studies compared mortality in elderly patients taking atypical and conventional antipsychotics. Four of these studies found a significantly higher rate of death with conventional antipsychotics, while two found no statistical difference in mortality between the drug classes.	The difference in risk for death was small but statistically significant for atypicals, according to a 2006 meta-analysis which remains the best available estimate. Sensitivity analyses found no difference between drugs in the class. Patients taking atypicals had higher odds of mortality than those taking no antipsychotics in the two cohort studies that made that comparison. There are no trials or large observational studies of ziprasidone in this population.
Endocrine			
Elderly	No evidence reported	No evidence reported	No difference in endocrine events in risperidone patients in one PCT. Regarding diabetes, risk was elevated but not statistically significant in one industry-sponsored cohort study of olanzapine patients.
Adults	Diabetes more common in patients taking olanzapine than patients taking risperidone in one trial.	No evidence reported	Endocrine events more common in patients taking quetiapine, risperidone, and ziprasidone in one PCT each. More common in olanzapine in two pooled PCTs.

Adverse Event	Head-to-Head Studies	Active Comparator Studies	Placebo-Controlled Studies
			Diabetes more common in patients taking quetiapine in six pooled PCTs; however, the pooled odds ratio was elevated at 1.47 but not statistically significant. More common in olanzapine patients in one PCT; the odds ratio of 5.14 was not statistically significant, with very wide confidence intervals (0.6 to 244). Lower odds of diabetes in risperidone patients in one large observational study.
Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA)	No evidence reported	Hospitalization for CVA was increased in the first week after initiation of typical antipsychotics, but not for initiation of atypicals in a large cohort study.	More common in risperidone patients than placebo according to four PCTs pooled by the manufacturer. In a meta-analysis of PCTs, risperidone was the only drug associated with an increase. More common in olanzapine than placebo according to five PCTs pooled by the manufacturer.
Extrapyramidal Symptoms (EPS)			
Elderly	More common in patients taking aripiprazole and risperidone patients than patients taking quetiapine in one large trial (CATIE-AD).	No evidence reported	More common in patients taking risperidone, according to the meta-analysis. Quetiapine and aripiprazole were not associated with an increase. More common in olanzapine in one PCT.
Adults	No evidence reported	Less likely in patients taking quetiapine than mood stabilizers in one small trial. Less likely in patients taking olanzapine or aripiprazole than patients taking conventional	More common in patients taking aripiprazole, quetiapine, and ziprasidone than placebo according to the meta-analysis.

Adverse Event	Head-to-Head Studies	Active Comparator Studies	Placebo-Controlled Studies
		antipsychotics in one trial each.	
Sedation			
Elderly	More common in elderly patients taking olanzapine or quetiapine than risperidone according to the meta-analysis, but not statistically significant.	No difference in one trial of olanzapine vs benzodiazepines. No difference in three trials of olanzapine and three of risperidone vs conventional antipsychotics.	More common in patients taking aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine, and risperidone than placebo according to the meta-analysis.
Adults	More common in patients taking quetiapine than risperidone in two trials. No difference in one trial of risperidone vs olanzapine.	Olanzapine patients had higher odds than mood stabilizer patients in two trials. More common in olanzapine and quetiapine patients than SSRIs patients in three and two trials respectively. Olanzapine patients had lower odds than patients taking conventional antipsychotics in the pooled analysis of three trials.	More common in patients taking aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine, risperidone, and ziprasidone than placebo in the meta-analysis.
Children/Adolescents	No head-to-head trials	No difference in one small trial of clonidine vs risperidone. More patients on haloperidol than risperidone reported sleep problems in one trial.	Less common in aripiprazole patients than placebo patients in one PCT. No difference from placebo in one small PCT of ziprasidone.

BMI=body mass index; CATIE-AD=Clinical Antipsychotic Trials of Intervention Effectiveness-Alzheimer's Disease; CVA=cerebrovascular accident; EPS=extrapyramidal symptoms; PCT=placebo-controlled trial; SSRI=serotonin selective reuptake inhibitor

Appendix III: Summary of the Strength of Evidence for Efficacy Outcomes in Children and Adolescents (adopted from the 2012 AHRQ systematic review)[103]

Outcome	Comparison (# of studies)	Strength of Evidence	Summary
Pervasive developmental disorder			
Autistic symptoms	FGA vs SGA (2 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
	SGA vs placebo (7	Low	Significant effect in favor of SGA on ABC (MD, 218.3; 95% CI, 227.1 to 29.5; I2, 79.6%);

Outcome	Comparison (# of studies)	Strength of Evidence	Summary
	RCTs)		CARS (MD, 24.9; 95% CI, 28.5 to 21.4; I2, 64%).
CGI	SGA vs placebo (3 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
OC symptoms	SGA vs placebo (3 RCTs)	Low	Significant effect in favor of SGA (MD, 21.7; 95% CI, 23.2 to 20.3; I2, 49%).
Medication adherence	SGA vs placebo (2 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Disruptive behavior disorder			
Aggression	SGA vs placebo (5 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Anxiety	SGA vs placebo (4 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Behavior symptoms	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of SGA for ABC (MD, 221.0; 95% CI, 231.1 to 210.8; I2, 62%); BPI (MD, 23.8; 95% CI, 26.2 to 21.4; I2, 0%); NCBRF (MD, 26.9; 95% CI, 210.4 to 23.5; I2, 62%).
CGI	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of SGA for CGI–I (MD, 21.0; 95% CI, 21.7 to 20.3; I2, 45%); CGI–S (MD, 21.3; 95% CI, 22.2 to 20.5; I2, 78%).
Medication adherence	SGA vs placebo (5 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Bipolar Disorder			
CGI	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of SGA (MD, 20.7; 95% CI, 20.8 to 20.5; I2, 36%).
Depression	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Manic Symptoms	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Low	All except one study significantly favored SGA (studies not pooled due to high heterogeneity).
Medication adherence	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Low	Significant effect in favor of placebo (RR, 2.0; 95% CI, 1.0 to 4.0; I2, 0%).
Suicide-related behavior	SGA vs placebo (7 RCTs)	Moderate	No significant difference for suicide-related deaths, attempts, or ideation.
Schizophrenia			
CGI	FGA vs SGA (3 RCTs)	Low	Significant effect in favor of SGA (MD, 20.8; 95% CI, 21.3 to 20.3; I2, 0%).

Outcome	Comparison (# of studies)	Strength of Evidence	Summary
	Clozapine vs olanzapine (2 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
	Olanzapine vs risperidone (3 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
	SGA vs placebo (6 RCTs)	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of SGA (MD, 20.5; 95% CI, 20.7 to 20.3; I2, 28%).
Positive and negative symptoms	FGA vs SGA (3 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
	Clozapine vs olanzapine (2 RCTs, 1 PCS)	Low	No significant difference
	Olanzapine vs risperidone (3 RCTs, 1 PCS)	Low	No significant difference
	SGA vs placebo (6 RCTs)	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of SGA (MD, 28.7; 95% CI, 211.8 to 25.6; I2, 38%).
Medication adherence	FGA vs SGA (2 RCTs, 1 PCS)	Low	No significant difference
	Clozapine vs quetiapine (2 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
	Olanzapine vs risperidone (4 RCTs, 1 PCS)	Low	No significant difference
	SGA vs placebo (2 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Suicide-related behaviors	SGA vs placebo (5 RCTs)	Low	No significant difference
Tourette syndrome			
Tics	SGA vs placebo (2 RCTs)	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of SGA (MD, 27.0; 95% CI, 210.3 to 23.6; I2, 0%)
Behavioral symptoms			
Autistic symptoms	Risperidone vs placebo (2RCTs)	Low	Significant effect in favor of risperidone in one study; NR in second study.

ABC=Aberrant Behavior Checklist, BPI=Behavior Problem Inventory, CARS=Childhood Autism Rating Scale, CGI–I=Clinical Global Impressions–Improvement, CGI–S=Clinical Global Impressions–Severity, NCBRF=Nisonger Child Behavior Rating Scale, NR=not reported, OC=obsessive-compulsive, PCS=prospective cohort study, RR=relative risk

Appendix IIIb: Summary of Evidence for Adverse Events in Children and Adolescents (adopted from 2012 AHRQ systematic review)[103]

Outcome	Strength of Evidence	SGA vs SGA	Placebo-Controlled Studies
Dyslipidemia	Low	Aripiprazole was significantly favored over olanzapine (RR, 0.25; 95% CI, 0.08 to 0.8)[a] and 95% CI, 271.3 to 27.4).[a] No significant differences were observed for clozapine vs olanzapine, olanzapine vs quetiapine and quetiapine vs risperidone.	Significant effect in favor of placebo over aripiprazole (RR, 2.5; 95% CI, 1.4, 4.4)[a], olanzapine (RR, 2.4; 95% CI, 1.2 to 4.9; I^2, 45%), and quetiapine (RR, 2.4; 95% CI, 1.1 to 5.4; I2, 0%).
	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of risperidone compared with olanzapine for cholesterol (MD, 10.2 mg/dL; 95% CI, 3.1 to 17.2; I^2, 0%) and triglycerides (MD, 17.3 mg/dL; 95% CI, 3.5 to 31.1; I2, 0%).	NA
EPS	Low	No significant difference for clozapine vs olanzapine, clozapine vs risperidone, olanzapine vs quetiapine, olanzapine vs risperidone, quetiapine vs risperidone.	No significant differences for placebo compared to olanzapine or quetiapine.
	Moderate	NA	Significant effect in favor of placebo over aripiprazole (RR, 4.2; 95% CI, 2.4 to 7.2; I^2, 0%) and risperidone (RR, 2.7; 95% CI, 1.4 to 4.9; I^2, 0%).
Insulin Resistance	Low	No significant difference for olanzapine vs quetiapine, olanzapine vs risperidone or quetiapine vs risperidone.	No significant difference between aripiprazole and placebo or olanzapine and placebo.
Prolactin-related sexual side effects	Low	Significant effect in favor of clozapine over olanzapine (MD, 210.8 ng/dL; 95% CI, 216.7 to 24.8; I^2, 21%). No significant difference for quetiapine vs risperidone.	Significant effect in favor of placebo over risperidone in seven or eight studies (not pooled due to heterogeneity). No significant difference for quetiapine compared to placebo.
	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of olanzapine over risperidone (RR, 0.4; 95% CI, 0.2 to 0.6; I^2, 0%).	Significant effect in favor of aripiprazole over placebo (MD, 24.1 ng/mL; 95% CI, 26.3 to

Outcome	Strength of Evidence	SGA vs SGA	Placebo-Controlled Studies
			21.8; I2, 0%). Significant effect in favor of placebo over olanzapine (MD, 11.5 ng/mL; 95% CI, 8.8 to 14.1; I2, 0%).
Sedation	Low	No significant differences for clozapine vs olanzapine, olanzapine vs quetiapine, olanzapine vs risperidone, quetiapine vs risperidone.	Significant effect in favor of placebo over aripiprazole (RR, 2.7; 95% CI, 1.1 to 6.5; I2, 76%). No significant difference in placebo comparisons with olanzapine and quetiapine.
	Moderate	NA	Significant effect in favor of placebo over risperidone (RR, 2.9; 95% CI, 1.5 to 5.5; I^2, 32%) and ziprasidone (RR, 3.0; 95% CI, 1.7 to 5.2; I^2, 0%).
Weight gain	Low	Significant effect in favor of aripiprazole over olanzapine (MD, 24.1 kg; 95% CI, 25.5 to 22.7),a quetiapine (MD, 21.6 kg; 95% CI, 23.0 to 20.3)[a] and risperidone (MD, 22.3 kg; 95% CI, 23.9 to 20.7).a No significant difference for clozapine vs olanzapine, clozapine vs risperidone, and quetiapine vs risperidone.	No significant difference for ziprasidone compared to placebo.
	Moderate	Significant effect in favor of quetiapine over olanzapine (RR, 1.5; 95% CI, 1.1 to 2.0; I^2, 0%) and risperidone over olanzapine (MD, 2.4 kg; 95% CI, 1.5 to 3.3; I^2, 72%).	Significant effect in favor of placebo over aripiprazole (MD, 0.8 kg; 95% CI, 0.4 to 1.2; I^2, 13%), olanzapine (MD, 4.6 kg; 95% CI, 3.1 to 6.1; I2, 70%), quetiapine (MD, 1.8 kg; 95% CI, 1.1 to 2.5; I^2, 49%), and risperidone (MD, 1.8 kg; 95% CI, 1.5 to 2.1; I^2, 0%).

AE=adverse event; EPS=extrapyramidal symptom; RR=relative risk.
a=Only 1 study contributed to this estimate; therefore, an I^2 value could not be calculated.

References

Please refer to the full therapeutic class review on atypical antipsychotics for a list of references.