

Switching medications : Raising the standards of long-term treatment of schizophrenia

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The newer antipsychotics are rapidly replacing the older conventional antipsychotics and have drastically changed prescribing practices of clinicians. They have the advantage of a more benign side effect profile with at least equal efficacy for the treatment of schizophrenia and

possibility better efficacy for negative symptoms and cognitive functions. Surveys of antipsychotics use suggested that not only many patients are treated with the newer antipsychotics, but also many patients are being switched from one newer agent to another. Reasons for switching antipsychotics include inadequate response or emerging side effects. This study reviewed the indications for switching strategies with recent available data.