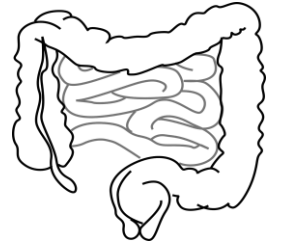




Medicines  
safety is  
everyone's role

## What are the red flag symptoms for severe clozapine constipation?

There are case reports of **death occurring a few hours** after symptoms present and the reported **fatality rate for severe clozapine constipation is 20%**





## Answer: Red flags for severe clozapine constipation



Medicines  
safety is  
everyone's role

- **Medium to severe abdominal pain or discomfort lasting over an hour**
- **Swollen or distended stomach (also known as 'clozapine belly')**
- **Overflow diarrhoea (particularly if there is blood in the stools)**
- **Sickness or vomiting (particularly if it smells of stool)**
- **Absent bowel sounds**
- **Symptoms of sepsis**



**Prevention of constipation is key, Patients can be unaware that they are constipated**

**Treat constipation urgently** (exclude intestinal obstruction) with stimulant laxatives +/- osmotic.  
Review within 48 hours, escalate doses and add suppositories as necessary.

Further SPS information see [link](#).