

Trazodone (SARI – Serotonin2 Antagonist Reuptake Inhibitor)

Medication*	Initial oral dose (mg)	Dosing frequency	Formulation	Titration Dose (mg) and Schedule	Average total dose (mg)	Common Side Effects	Medication Administration
trazodone (Desyrel)	12.5-25	bid to qid	tablet	12.5-25 q3 to 7 days	100-200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drowsiness • dizziness • mild headache • constipation • dry mouth • postural hypotension • falls 	tablets may be split for titration doses

*Please consult with the product monograph for more detailed information

1. Key Messages/Considerations :

- Start low and go slow;
- Strive for a good clinical trial - increase dose only until clinical effectiveness is achieved;
- Monitor for adverse effects especially when combining psychotropic medications, other CNS sedatives or alcohol;
- May rarely cause priapism (sustained erection);
- Reassess the need for continued therapy;
- Discontinuation of medication requires a taper;
- PRN doses may be used:
 - temporarily while determining the need for regular dosage administration;
 - in situations where break-through behavioural symptom(s) requires additional dosing.

2. References and other medication information:

- Canadian Consensus Conference on Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia (CCCDTD4), 2012, retrieved July 30th, 2013 online from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3516356/> .
- Clinical Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs, 18th Edition. (2009) Hogrefe and Huber.
- CPS - Compendium of Pharmaceutical and Specialities (2013).
- Lexicomp online drug information (www.online.lexi.com).

- P.I.E.C.E.S. Psychotropic Template (2009), retrieved online June 14th, 2013 from http://www.piecescanada.com/pdf/Psychotropic_Template_Jan09.pdf
- Stahl, Steven M (2007) Essential Psychopharmacology: The Prescriber's Guide. Cambridge University Press.
- Tool on Pharmacological Treatment of Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia in Long Term Care Facilities for Older Adults, based on: Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH) National Guidelines: The Assessment and Treatment of Mental Health Issues in Long Term Care Homes, retrieved online May 30th, 2013 from: http://www.ccsmh.ca/pdf/ccsmh_ltc_meds_front.pdf.