

# SHARED DECISION MAKING

## AID CARDS

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# *Antipsychotic*

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Joint Partnership Between:

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**Alliance**  
Health

**Alameda County**  
**Behavioral Health**

# What You Should Know & Things to Remember

## Will this work for me?

- Antipsychotic medications help ease symptoms of psychosis, such as delusions and hallucinations.
- Antipsychotics can be used to treat other mental health symptoms and disorders.
- Some people may need to try different medications to see what works best for them.
- People using Clozapine or long-acting injections are less likely to need hospital care.

## Understanding side effects:

- There may be times when it is important to contact your doctor immediately.
- There are other medications that can help with side effects. Making some lifestyle changes can help reduce side effects.

## Things to remember:

- Antipsychotic medicines generally should not be stopped abruptly.
- If you miss your Clozapine dose for more than 48 hours (2 days), you **MUST** contact your doctor, so that your dose can be adjusted to prevent dangerous side effects.
- If you miss your appointment for long acting injections, call your doctor immediately to reschedule.
- If you stop taking these medicines abruptly you may become sick or unwell quickly.
- Everyone responds to medication differently.

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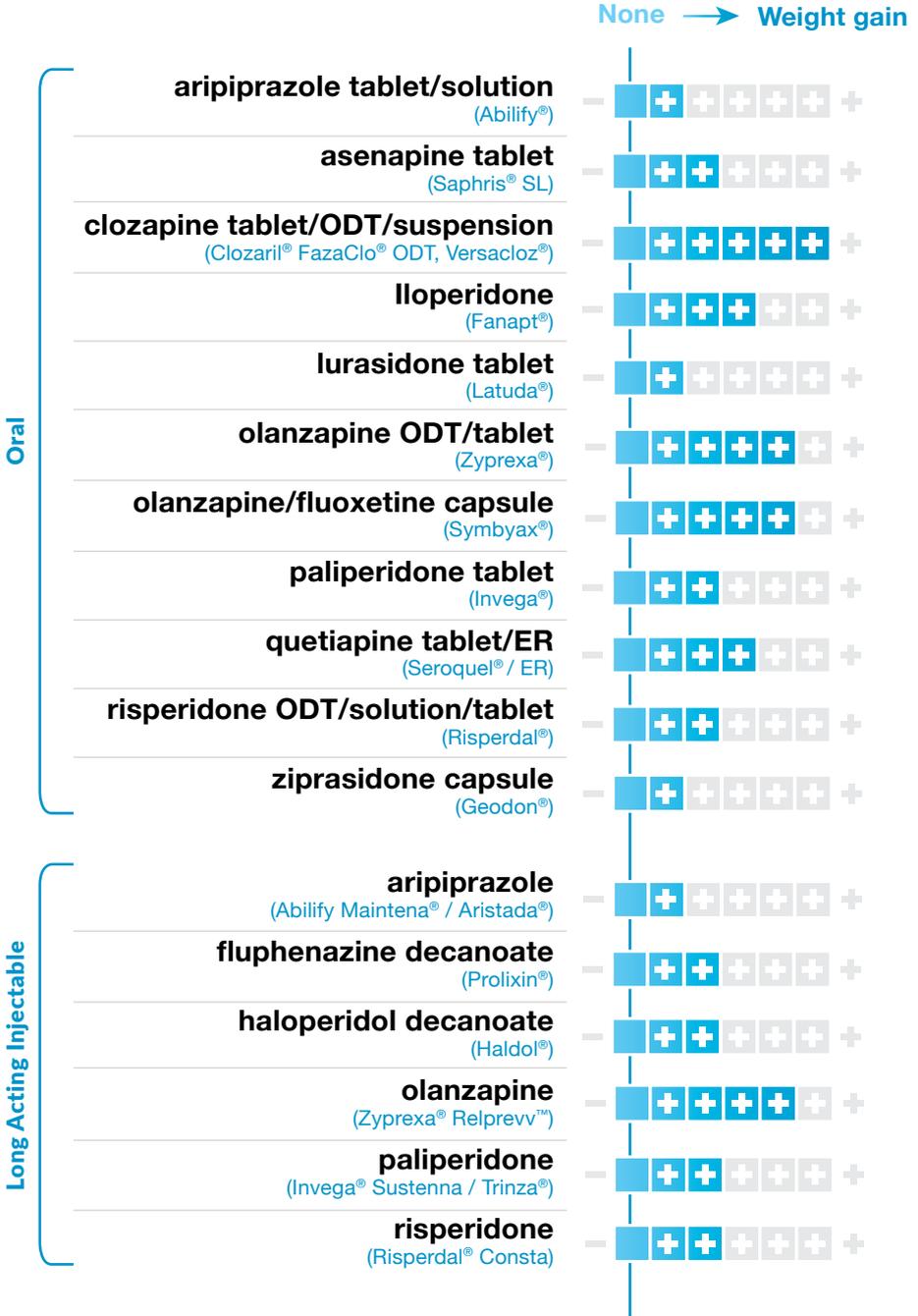
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# Weight Change/Diabetes Risk

Some people may experience weight gain, increases in cholesterol and blood sugar.

Sometimes other medications will be added to prevent or treat these physical changes.

A healthy diet and physical activity are very important.



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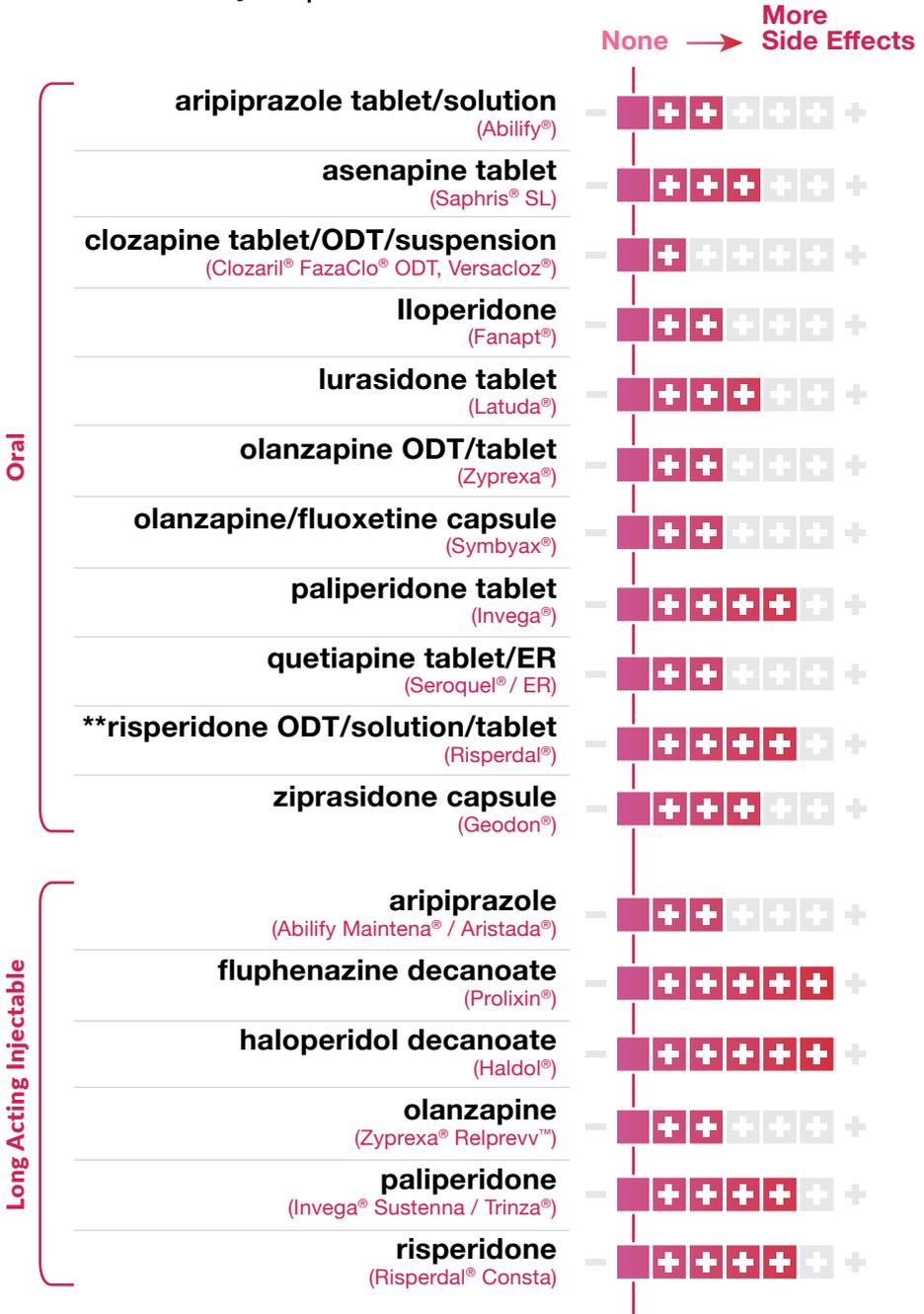
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# Muscle Stiffness, Spasms, Shakiness, Abnormal Movement

These movements can happen within hours or days of treatment (“acute”) or develop after a long period of time (“chronic”). If you feel any of these, tell your doctor right away. It does not matter which muscle is stiff! In rare cases abnormal movement can become a medical emergency.

Medication may help control these side effects.



\*\* Risperidone dose above 6mg have higher risk of muscle stiffness

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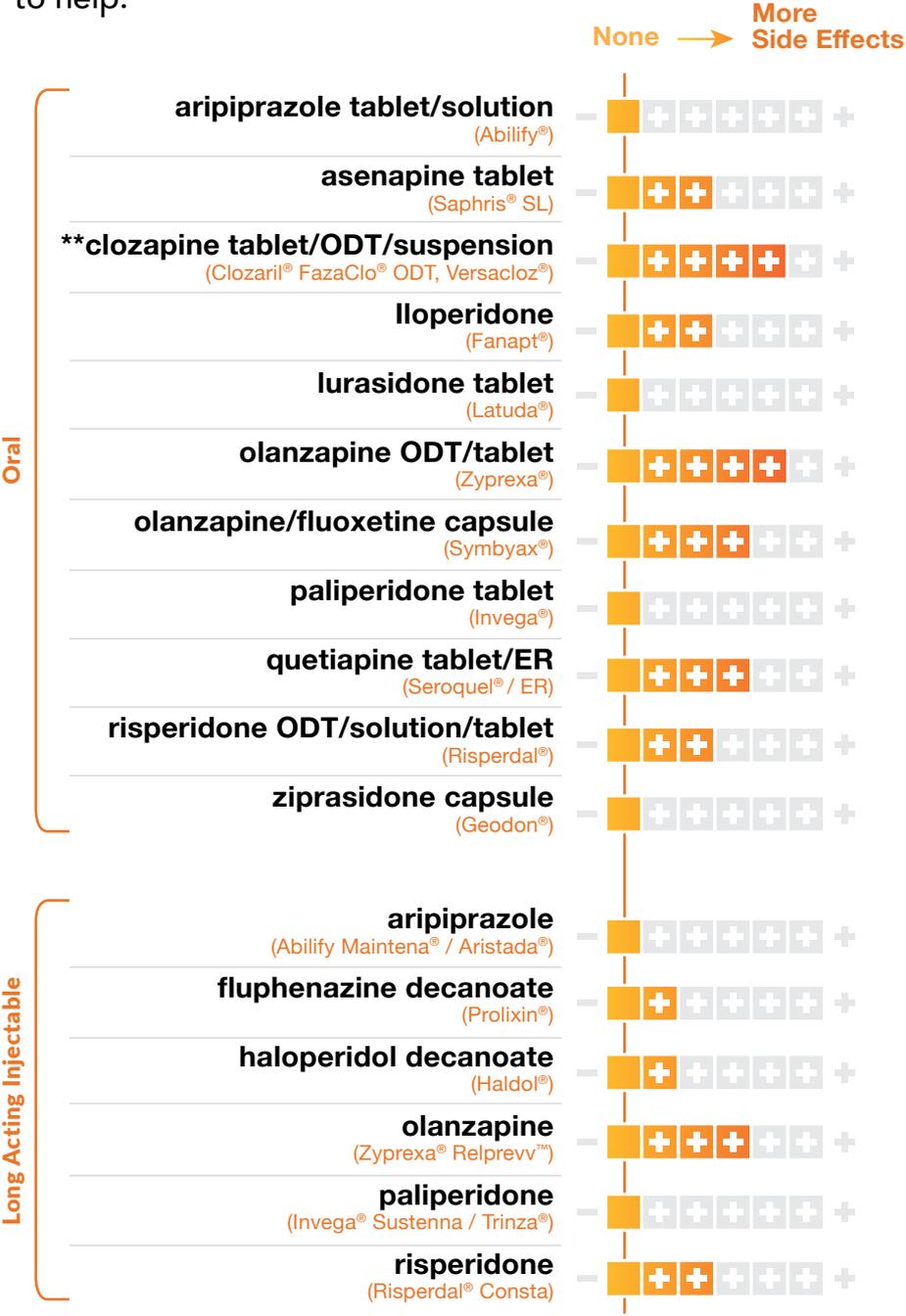
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# Dry Mouth, Blurred Vision & Constipation

Some medications may cause dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, as well as confusion, decreased sweating, urinary retention and increased heart rate.

If you have any of these side effects, please speak with your doctor. There are things that you can do and medicines to help.



\*\*Clozapine causes drooling, for which there are treatments.

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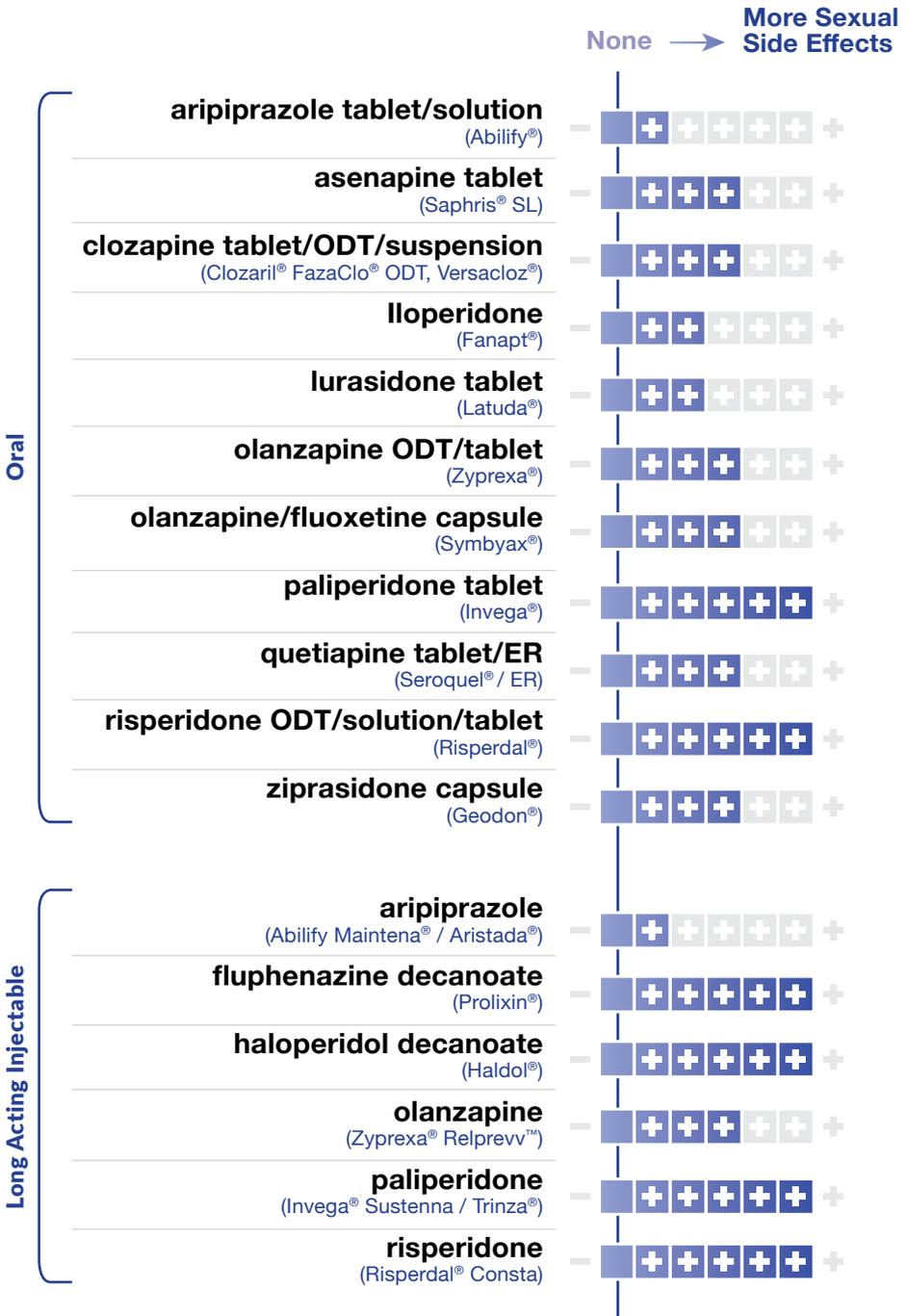
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# Sexual Side Effects

Some people who take antipsychotics may experience decreased sex drive (libido), arousal, changes in sexual functioning and other body changes such as irregular periods.

Let your doctor know if you experience these side-effects. Often an adjustment in dose or change of medication can help.



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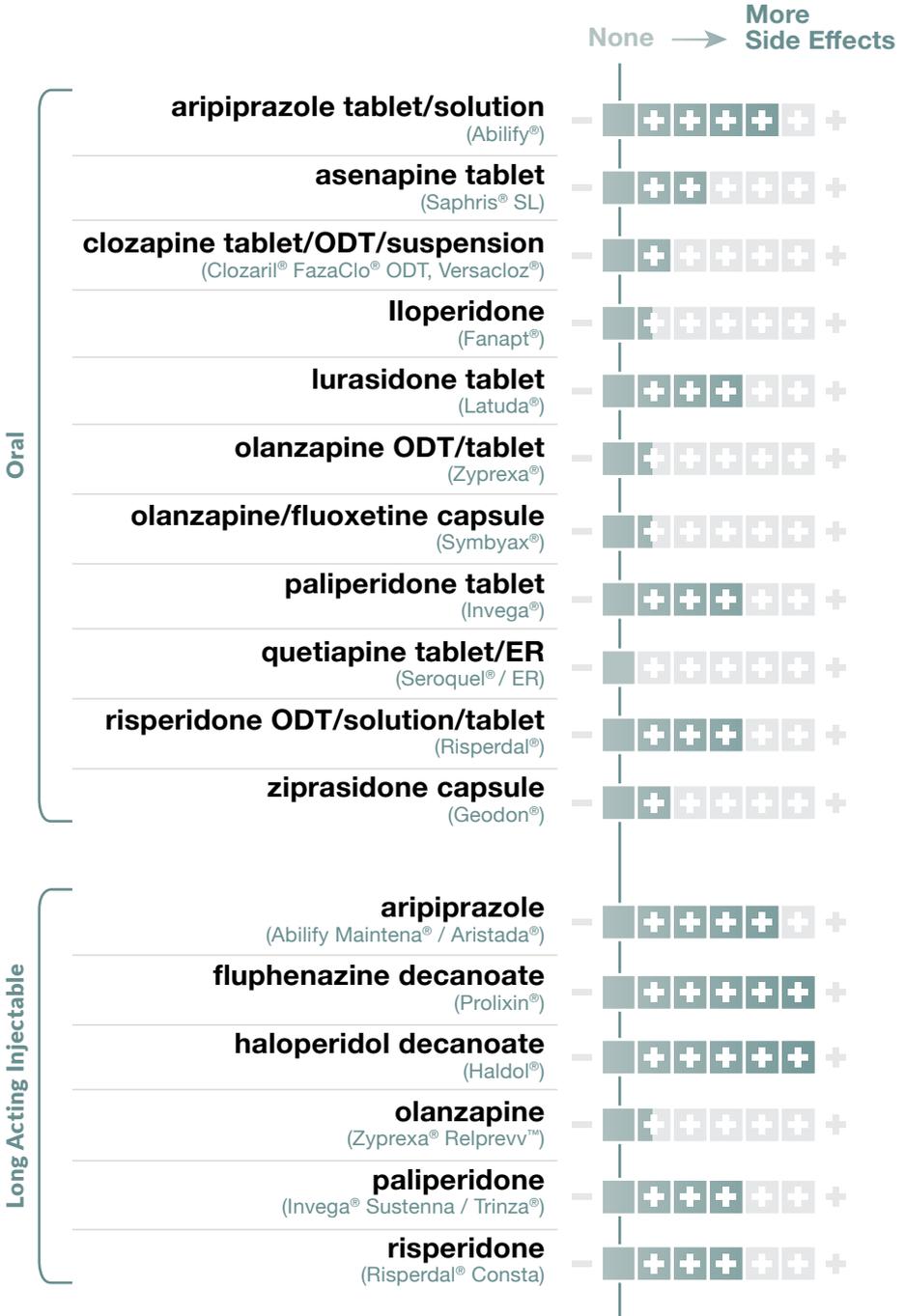
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# Restlessness

Restlessness can feel like the need to keep moving, leading to difficulty sitting still, feet tapping and/or pacing. It usually appears within days of beginning an antipsychotic medication or after a dose increase.



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