

CAN YOUR MEDICATION INCREASE YOUR PROLACTIN?

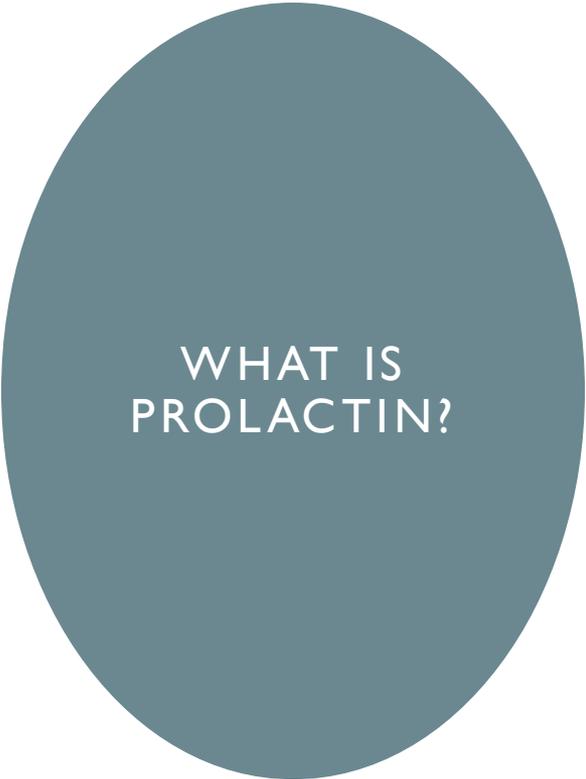
Patient Education Overview

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WHAT IS PROLACTIN?

- A **hormone** produced by the pituitary gland
- Helps regulate **reproductive** and **breast functions**
- Primarily known for its role in **milk production** and stimulating breast growth after pregnancy
- Some medications can increase prolactin levels

SYMPTOMS OF HIGH PROLACTIN (HYPERPROLACTINEMIA)

Irregular periods
or loss of
menstruation

Breast milk
production
(galactorrhea)

Low libido

Erectile
dysfunction in
men

Infertility

Headaches or
visual changes
(rare, when
severe)



MEDICATIONS
THAT
COMMONLY
INCREASE
PROLACTIN

- **Antipsychotics** (most common cause)
 - Risperidone (Risperdal)
 - Paliperidone (Invega)
 - Typical antipsychotics (e.g., haloperidol)
- **Antidepressants** (rare, mild)
- Some blood pressure medications (e.g., verapamil)
- GI medications like metoclopramide

WHY DO
ANTIPSYCHOTICS
RAISE PROLACTIN?

Dopamine
normally blocks
prolactin release

Antipsychotics
block dopamine
receptors

Some block
dopamine more
strongly → higher
prolactin increase



IS PROLACTIN RISE DOSE-DEPENDENT?

- Some medications show a clear **dose-response** (higher dose → higher prolactin)
 - Risperidone & paliperidone
 - Typical antipsychotics (haloperidol, fluphenazine)
- Others are less dose-dependent:
 - Aripiprazole (Abilify) (may lower prolactin)
 - Quetiapine & clozapine (minimal effect)

RISPERIDONE: DOSE EFFECTS

- Clear dose-response relationship
- Even low doses (0.5 – 1 mg) may raise prolactin
- Higher doses (3 – 6 mg) → significant increase

PALIPERIDONE: DOSE EFFECTS

- Similar to risperidone
- IM injections cause sustained elevations

TYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS

- Strong D2 blockade → strongly dose-dependent rise
- Includes haloperidol, perphenazine, fluphenazine

NOT DOSE-DEPENDENT / MINIMAL EFFECT

- Aripiprazole (may lower prolactin)
- Quetiapine
- Clozapine
- Olanzapine (mild rise, not strongly dose-related)

HOW IS PROLACTIN MONITORED?



Usually monitored when symptoms develop



Blood test (morning draw preferred)



Repeat testing may be done after adjusting treatment

IF PROLACTIN IS HIGH, POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

1

Lower the dose
(if appropriate)

2

Switch to a
prolactin-sparing
medication

3

Add **aripiprazole**
to counteract high
prolactin

4

Check for other
medical causes

5

Rarely, evaluate the
pituitary gland
(MRI)

ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS WITH LOWER PROLACTIN IMPACT

- Aripiprazole (often lowers prolactin)
- Quetiapine
- Clozapine
- Olanzapine (mild increase)
- Ziprasidone (mild increase)

HOW PROVIDERS ADJUST MEDICATION DOSING

- Balancing symptom control with side effects
- Considering alternative medications
- Avoiding unnecessary dose increases
- Adding adjunct medications when needed
- Ensuring patient comfort and safety

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Some medications, especially antipsychotic medications can increase prolactin levels

Symptoms can affect reproductive and sexual health

Dose adjustments or medication changes can help

Always talk to your provider if symptoms occur