



Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome



Did you know...

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome is a rare and life-threatening reaction to certain medications. NMS is serious but treatable. Most who develop NMS make a full recovery when treated early.

Call 911 immediately if you suspect NMS.

Who is at risk?

Anyone taking antipsychotic (neuroleptic) medication is at risk.

Doctors commonly prescribe this type of medication to treat:

- Bipolar disorder.
- Dementia.
- Depression.
- Eating disorders.
- Generalized anxiety disorder.
- Insomnia.
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- Personality disorders.
- Post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Schizoaffective disorder.
- Schizophrenia and related disorders.

The first week of taking a new neuroleptic medication is the most common to see NMS.

It can develop any time during treatment.

A person taking multiple neuroleptic medications can be at higher risk.

Men are at higher risk than women.

Stopping medication too fast can increase risk.

Only 3% people taking antipsychotic medications develop NMS.

What should I look for?

- Fever 102°F or higher.
- Stiff or rigid muscles.
- Tremors.
- New incontinent episodes.
- Irregular or fast heartbeat.
- High or low blood pressures.
- Excessive sweating.
- Excessive saliva (spit) production.
- Changes in mental state (agitation or paranoia).
- New onset of seizures.

How do we treat NMS?

NMS requires professional medical care. Call 911 immediately if you suspect NMS. [Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome: Symptoms & Treatment \(clevelandclinic.org\)](https://www.clevelandclinic.org/health/conditions/neuroleptic-malignant-syndrome)