Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome: Symptoms & Treatment

**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.

**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.

**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.

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.

How do we treat NMS?
NMS requires professional medical care. Call 911 immediately if you suspect NMS.

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