INDICATIONS FOR CLOZAPINE

FDA-approved indications

- Clozapine is an antipsychotic that is clinically reserved for patients who are treatment resistant to standard antipsychotic therapy. Clozapine should be considered for any patient with schizophrenia who has persistent positive symptoms despite two trials with different antipsychotics of adequate duration and dose.
- In December 2002, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved clozapine for treatment of recurrent suicidal behavior in patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder who are at chronic risk of suicide.

Clinical indications for clozapine that are not FDA-approved

- Clozapine is sometimes used for patients who are treatment intolerant or especially sensitive to antipsychotic agents. Treatment intolerance can be defined as patients who are sensitive to the extrapyramidal side effects from antipsychotics, who have had severe dystonic reactions, or who have developed any tardive variant such as tardive dyskinesia, tardive dystonia or tardive akathisia.
- Clozapine is sometimes used in patients who have significant tardive dyskinesia or dystonia and who might benefit from clozapine treatment.
- Clozapine is sometimes used for the treatment of refractory mania.