Quetiapine and ischaemic colitis

Antipsychotics, including quetiapine, can inhibit intestinal motility due to their anticholinergic action, exposing patients to potentially serious complications. Reports in our French sister publication La Revue Prescrire and a case series indicate that these complications may include ischaemic colitis. In theory, the risk is increased by combining two antipsychotics, though the level of risk is unknown.

If patients present with an unexpected suspected or established (ischaemic) colitis or intestinal necrosis, the use of antipsychotics should explicitly be included in the differential diagnosis.

References*


*The literature refers to the Dutch text

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