



SCHIZOPHRENIA AND CLOZAPINE

(A Service by the CURESZ Foundation)

- **Schizophrenia is a serious brain psychiatric illness where a person hears voices or sees things that are not really there, or becomes paranoid or has other false beliefs**
- **There are several medications that can treat those symptoms**
- **In 25-30% of cases, the voices or the paranoid feelings do not go away despite using several antipsychotic drugs**
- **Clozapine has been proven to work when other antipsychotics don't. It also helps reduce suicidal thoughts in people with schizophrenia**
- **When clozapine is used, blood is drawn weekly to check for any changes in white blood cells, which may occur in 1% of people. Measurement of the blood level of clozapine is also done**
- **Side effects may include increased appetite, sleepiness, and low blood pressure**
- **To make it easier for patients to try clozapine, CURESZ is a foundation that has arranged for a group of psychiatrists who are experts in clozapine, so that patients around the country can connect with one of those experts close to where they live**
- **To find a doctor who will prescribe clozapine, visit CURESZ.org**
- **CURESZ does not have any financial interest in promoting clozapine use since clozapine has been available in generic form for over 15 years. Our goal is to make this inexpensive but extremely effective medication available to more patients worldwide**
- **CURESZ welcomes tax-deductible donations to support its mission to help people with schizophrenia and to educate the public and reduce the shame that many people with schizophrenia may have**