

...more clearly determine the potential risks and benefits of such combined therapy.

Pediatric Considerations. Although the manufacturer states that the safety and efficacy of olanzapine in children and adolescents with schizophrenia have not been established, the drug has been successfully used for the management of childhood-onset schizophrenia in a limited number of children and adolescents†. In addition, a double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of 6 weeks' duration conducted in adolescents 13–17 years of age with schizophrenia has demonstrated that olanzapine is effective in the management of schizophrenia, but that the drug's adverse effects on weight and prolactin concentrations may be greater in adolescents.

Based on the observed efficacy and tolerability of atypical antipsychotics in adults and the available clinical experience in pediatric patients, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) currently states that the use of atypical antipsychotic agents in children and adolescents with schizophrenia is justified, and many clinicians consider atypical antipsychotic agents, with the exception of clozapine, the drugs of first choice in the management of childhood-onset schizophrenia. However, well-controlled studies are necessary to more clearly establish the efficacy and safety of atypical antipsychotics in pediatric patients, particularly during long-term therapy. For additional information on the symptomatic management of childhood-onset schizophrenia, see Pediatric Considerations under Psychotic Disorders: Schizophrenia, in Uses in the Phenothiazines General Statement 28:16.08.24.

Acute Agitation. Olanzapine is used IM for the management of acute agitation in patients with schizophrenia for whom...