Saphris (asenapine) is an atypical antipsychotic agent that works through antagonism of serotonin and dopamine receptor sites as well as alpha-adrenergic and histamine receptor sites.
Adult Indications

Schizophrenia
Bipolar mania
Off-Label Use: Agitation

BLACK BOX WARNING:
*Increased risk of death in elderly patients with dementia*

**Safety and efficacy has not been established for children or adolescents.**
Drowsiness
Insomnia
Weight gain
Headache
Extrapyramidal side effects
Akathisia
Dizziness
Hyperlipidemia
Hyperglycemia

*Most side effects respond to a reduction in the daily dose of asenapine, which may be necessary for continued use*
Concomitant use of Saphris should be avoided with:

- other atypical antipsychotics
- drugs that can prolong the QT interval
- dopamine agonists
If patients experience side effects that resemble tardive dyskinesia, neuroleptic malignant syndrome, or hypersensitivity reactions, discontinue use of asenapine immediately and initiate appropriate medical actions if needed.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicated Use</th>
<th>Initial Dose</th>
<th>Maintenance Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acute Treatment of Schizophrenia</td>
<td>5mg sublingually twice daily</td>
<td>5mg sublingually twice daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance Treatment of Schizophrenia</td>
<td>5mg sublingually twice daily for 1 week</td>
<td>10mg sublingually twice daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monotherapy Treatment of Bipolar Mania</td>
<td>10mg sublingually twice daily</td>
<td>5–10mg sublingually twice daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjunct Therapy of Bipolar Mania with Lithium or Valproate Treatment</td>
<td>5mg sublingually twice daily</td>
<td>5–10mg sublingually twice daily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Asenapine comes in black cherry flavor*
Saphris is placed under the tongue and should be allowed to completely dissolve, usually occurring in under a minute.
Bioavailability is markedly reduced if swallowed prior to the tablet fully dissolving.
Patient must not have any food or drink for at least 10 minutes after administration.

**Immediate Side Effect:** Patient may experience numbness in the mouth and should be reassured that this is a temporary effect, typically lasting no longer than one hour.
Summary of Saphris

- Atypical antipsychotic drug
- Approved for use in adults with schizophrenia and bipolar mania
- Dosed sublingually twice daily
- Numbness of the mouth may occur
- Tablet should be allowed to dissolve and should not be swallowed
- Patients should not have any food or drink for at least 10 minutes after administration.
THANK YOU

For completing the in-service on:

Med of the Month: *Saphris*

Name (printed): __________________________
Signature: ______________________________
Date: __________________________

*Print and complete this slide and send to Diane Mustard in Staff Development.*