
FLUOXETINE (Prozac) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Fluoxetine (floo-OX-e-teen)

Brand Name: Prozac

What Does It Treat?

Fluoxetine is used to treat major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder(OCD), bulimia nervosa, and panic disorder. It may also be prescribed for other conditions as determined by your health care provider.

How Does It Work?

Fluoxetine is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI). It works by increasing the levels of serotonin, a natural chemical in the brain, which helps improve mood, reduce anxiety, and restore balance in certain brain functions.

How Do I Take It?

Fluoxetine is available as a liquid, capsule, or tablet, and it is typically taken once daily in the morning or as directed by your health care provider.

What is the Dose?

The dose of fluoxetine varies depending on the condition being treated. For instance, the typical dosage, used for depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder, is 20-80 mg per day. It is important to follow your health care provider's instructions regarding the dose.

How Long Will I Take It?

The duration of fluoxetine treatment can vary depending on individual circumstances. Your health care provider will assess your progress and determine the appropriate length of treatment, which may range from several months to longer periods.

What If I Miss a Dose?

If you forget to take a dose of fluoxetine, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular dosing schedule. Do not double up on doses.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Nausea, headache, insomnia, feeling nervous, sexual side effects.
- Serious but rare: Abnormal bleeding or easy bruising, low sodium levels in the blood (hyponatremia), serotonin syndrome (agitation, confusion, rapid heartbeat).

What Else Should I Know?

- Fluoxetine may interact with other medications, so inform your health care provider of all the medications you are taking.
- You should not take fluoxetine if you are taking a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) or have recently stopped using an MAOI.
- Before starting fluoxetine, tell your health care provider if you have a history of bipolar disorder, liver or kidney problems, seizures, or any bleeding disorders.
- Fluoxetine may take several weeks to start working fully. Continue taking it as prescribed, even if you start feeling better.

Remember, this fact sheet provides general information about this medication. For more specific guidance and instructions, consult your health care provider.