



# ANDORRA PEDIATRICS

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## Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors For Treatment Of Depression

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, or SSRIs, are newer antidepressants that often treat the symptoms of depression more effectively than TCAs and for many people, produce less troublesome side effects.

SSRIs include:

**Zoloft** (sertraline)  
**Paxil** (paroxetine)  
**Celexa** (citalopram hydrobromide)  
**Prozac** (fluoxetine)  
**Effexor** (venlafaxine)  
**Luvox** (fluvoxamine maleate)

Besides treating depression, SSRIs are sometimes used to treat the symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder. Luvox in particular is thought to help patients control their obsessions and compulsions.

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### Zoloft (sertraline)

#### Zoloft is used to treat

- Depression
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Panic Disorder
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

**How it works** - Zoloft is a SSRI that works by restoring levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin, thereby relieving depression symptoms.

## Possible side effects of Zoloft

The following list may not contain all of the side effects associated with this medication:

- Most common side effects
  - nausea
  - diarrhea
  - drowsiness
  - decreased appetite
  - weight loss
- Infrequent side effects
  - dry mouth
  - vomiting
  - vaginitis
  - insomnia
- Rare side effects/Risks
  - seizures
  - male sexual dysfunction
  - increased blood pressure
  - hypomania

### Before you begin this medication, consult your doctor

If you have kidney or liver disease.

If you are on another antidepressant agent.

If you have a history of seizures.

If you suffer from mania or have suicidal thoughts.

### Possible drug interactions

- If you are taking any herbal remedies, vitamins, and/or over-the-counter medications, be sure to tell your physician. The following section offers some, but not necessarily all, of the possible drug interactions.
- Do NOT take Zoloft if you are taking MAOIs or have discontinued taking MAO Inhibitors for less than 14 days; serious, even fatal, interactions have occurred when these medications have been taken together.

### Zoloft may increase the effects of:

Valium(diazepam)

Orinase(tolbutamide)

Coumadin(warfarin)

Tagamet (cimetidine) may induce Zoloft toxicity

Tambocor (flecainide) may lead to flecainide toxicity.

Norvir (ritonavir) may also lead toxicity.

Antidiabetic drugs taken with Zoloft may increase the risk of hypoglycemic reactions.

Avoid alcohol when taking Zoloft; it is advised in depressed patients to avoid alcohol due to potential adverse reactions.

### Overdose

Symptoms of overdose include nausea, vomiting, drowsiness, hyperactivity, and enlarged pupils.

If you think you may have taken an overdose of Zoloft, go to the emergency room or seek

other medical attention immediately!

## Storage

This drug should be kept in a cool dry area, away from extreme heat or moisture.

## Other important information

If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, discuss the potential risks of this or any medication with your doctor.

Therapy with this agent may increase triglycerides and other lab tests.

## Reminders

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children

Never share medications with others

Only use this medication as your doctor has prescribed.

## Paxil (paroxetine)

Paxil is used to treat

- Depression
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Panic Disorder

**How it works** - Paxil is a SSRI that works by restoring levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin, thereby relieving depression symptoms.

## Possible side effects of Paxil

The following list may not contain all of the side effects associated with this medication:

- Most common side effects
  - lowered blood pressure and fainting upon standing (postural hypotension)
  - sweating
  - dry mouth
  - nausea
  - headache
  - drowsiness
- Infrequent side effects
  - nervousness
  - insomnia
  - constipation
  - increase or decrease of appetite
  - dizziness
  - blurred vision
  - abnormal ejaculation
  - impotence

- sexual dysfunction
- diarrhea
- Rare side effects/Risks
  - hypomania
  - blurred vision
  - seizures

### **Before you begin this medication, consult your doctor**

If you have had a history of seizure disorders.

If you have thoughts of death or suicide.

If you have kidney or liver disease.

If you have a history of drug abuse.

If you have a history of mania or bipolar disorder.

### **Possible drug interactions**

- Also, if you are taking any herbal remedies, vitamins, and/or over-the-counter medications, be sure to tell your physician. Also make sure that your doctor knows about all prescription drugs that you are taking before starting Paxil.
- Do NOT take Paxil if you are taking MAO Inhibitors or have stopped taking MAO Inhibitors in the last two week; serious, even fatal, interactions have occurred when these medications have been taken together.

### **Paxil may increase the effects of:**

Benzodiazepine

Desipramine

Haldol(haloperidol)

Normodyne(labetalol)

### **Other possible drug interactions**

Dilantin (phenytoin) may result in a decrease of Paxil in the blood thus reducing its effects.

Quinaglute (quinidine) and Tagamet (cimetidine) may increase Paxil levels and may induce toxicity.

Ultram (tramadol) may lead to a risk of seizures.

Tryptophan may result in sweating, nausea, and dizziness when combined with Paxil.

Coumadin ( warfarin) may result in bleeding when taken with Paxil.

Alcohol has not been shown to increase cognitive or motor skills when taken with Paxil; however, alcohol is advised to be avoided when taking Paxil.

### **Overdose**

Symptoms of overdose include nausea, vomiting, tremor, seizure, drowsiness, hyperactivity, and enlarged pupils.

If you think you may have taken an overdose of Paxil, go to the emergency room or seek other medical attention immediately!

## Storage

This medication should be kept in a cool dry area, away from extreme heat or moisture.

## Other important information

If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, discuss the potential risks of this or any medication with your doctor.

Paxil levels in elderly patients may be higher than younger ones and may have to be decreased accordingly but no significant difference was found between young and older patients.

Paxil may cause excessive sweating and patients should drink a lot of water or other non-alcoholc beverages when taking this medication.

## Reminders

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children

Never share your medications with others

Only use this medication as your doctor has prescribed

## Celexa (citalopram hydrobromide)

Celexa is used to treat

- Depression
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (NOT an FDA-approved indication)

**How it works** - Celexa restores levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin, thereby relieving depression and other related disorders.

### Possible side effects of Celexa

The following list may not contain all of the side effects associated with this medication:

- Most common side effects
  - nausea
  - dry mouth
  - sleepiness
  - increase in sweating
  - low blood pressure
  - decrease in weight/increased weight
  - increased appetite
  - impaired concentration
- Infrequent side effects
  - high blood pressure
  - hot flashes
  - dry eyes
  - arthritis

- muscle weakness
- Rare side effects/Risks
  - hyponatremia (low concentration of sodium in blood that often occurs in dehydration)
  - sexual difficulties (decreased libido)
  - ejaculation disorder and impotence)

### **Before you begin this medication, consult your doctor**

If you have any other medical problems.

If you have kidney or liver problems.

If you have a history of seizures.

If you have a history of drug abuse.

If you have a history of mood disorders, such as mania, or thoughts of suicide.

If you are allergic to medications, foods, or other substances.

### **Possible drug Interactions**

- If you are taking any herbal remedies, vitamins, and/or over-the-counter medications, be sure to tell your physician. The following section offers some, but not necessarily all, of the possible drug interactions.
- DO NOT take MAOIs with Celexa due to possible serious, even life-threatening, interactions that can occur. A period of at least 14 days must pass from the last time an MAO Inhibitor was taken before starting Celexa.

### **Overdose**

Symptoms of overdose include nausea, vomiting, dizziness, sweating, and rapid heartbeat.

If you think you may have taken an overdose of Celexa, go to the emergency room or seek other medical attention immediately!

### **Storage**

This medication should be stored in a cool dry area away from extreme heat or moisture.

### **Other Important Information**

If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, discuss the potential risks of this or any medication with your doctor.

Older patients may be more sensitive to Celexa than younger patients, and thus may require a lower dosage.

### **Reminders**

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children

Never share your medications with others

Only use this medication only as your doctor has prescribed

## Prozac (fluoxetine)

Prozac is used to treat

- Depression
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Bulimia Nervosa

**How it works** - Prozac is a SSRI that works by restoring levels of the neurotransmitter serotonin, thereby relieving depression symptoms.

### Possible side effects of Prozac

The following list may not contain all of the side effects associated with this medication:

- Most common side effects
  - decreased appetite
  - weight loss
  - nausea
  - altered taste
  - insomnia
  - headache
- Infrequent side effects
  - blurred vision
  - anxiety
  - nervousness
  - drowsiness
  - dizziness
  - excessive sweating
  - anorexia
  - impaired erection
- Rare side effects / Risks
  - hypomania
  - seizures
  - tremor

### Before taking this medication, consult your doctor

If you have a history of seizure disorder.

If you have severe kidney or liver disease.

### Possible drug interactions

- If you are taking any herbal remedies, vitamins, and/or over-the-counter medications, be sure to tell your physician. The following section offers some, but not necessarily all, of the possible drug interactions.
- Do NOT take Prozac if you are taking MAOIs or have discontinued taking MAO Inhibitors for less than 14 days; serious, even fatal, interactions have occurred when these medications have been taken together.

### Prozac may increase the effects of:

Valium(diazepam)  
Digitoxin/digoxin(digitalis preparations)  
Dilantin(phenytoin)  
Coumadin(warfarin)  
Prozac increases levels of:  
Clozaril (clozapine)  
Haldol (haloperidol)  
Claritin (loratadine)  
Dextromethorphan (cough suppressant) and Toradol (ketorolac) may result in hallucinations when taken with Prozac.  
Lithium, tryptophan, and Eldepryl (selegiline) may result in drug toxicity.  
Ultram (tramadol) may increase seizure risk.

## Overdose

Symptoms of overdose include sedation, coma, agitation, violent vomiting, and respiratory depression.

If you think you may have taken an overdose of Prozac, go to the emergency room or seek other medical attention immediately!

## Storage

This medication should be kept in a cool, dry area, away from extreme heat or moisture.

## Other important information

If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, discuss the potential risks of this or any medication with your doctor.

Avoid grapefruit juice when taking Prozac due to the increased blood levels of the drug.

## Reminders

Keep this medication out of the reach of children  
Never share your medications with others  
Only use this medication as your doctor has prescribed.

## Effexor (venlafaxine)

Effexor is used to treat:

- Depression
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder

**How it works** - Effexor increases the levels of the neurotransmitters serotonin and norepinephrine.

## Possible side effects of Effexor

The following list may not contain all of the side effects associated with this medication:

- Most common side effects
  - headache
  - insomnia
  - dizziness
  - abnormal ejaculation
  - weakness
  - neck pain
  - nausea
  - weight loss
  - fast heart beat
  - increased blood pressure
  - unusual tiredness
  - constipation
- Infrequent side effects
  - anxiety/nervousness
  - blurred vision
  - diarrhea
  - dizziness
  - dry mouth
  - insomnia
  - sexual difficulties
  - difficulty swallowing
- Rare side effects/Risks
  - hypomania
  - increased blood pressure
  - seizures
  - lightheadedness
  - changes in taste
  - ringing in ears
  - mood or behavior changes
  - ear pain

### Before taking this medication, consult your doctor

If you have high blood pressure.

If you have a history of seizures.

If you have heart, liver, or kidney disease.

If you have thoughts about suicide.

If you are allergic to other medications.

### Possible drug interactions

- Remember, always follow your physician's recommendations on how to take your medication. Also, if you are taking any herbal remedies, vitamins, and/or over-the-counter medications, be sure to tell your physician.
- Do NOT take MAO Inhibitors while taking Effexor. Potentially serious, even fatal, interactions can occur when these medications are taken together. Wait at least 14 days after ending the use of MAO Inhibitors before beginning Effexor.
- Antidepressants and CNS depressants should be avoided due to an increased sedative effect.

- Cimetidine or Tagament should also be avoided due to major adverse drug interactions.

## Overdose

Symptoms of overdose include seizures, rapid heart beat, drowsiness, and confusion. Other symptoms may occur.

If you think you may have taken an overdose of Effexor, go to the emergency room or seek other medical attention immediately!

## Storage

Keep this and other drugs in a cool dry area away from extreme heat or moisture.

## Other important information

If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, discuss the potential risks of this or any medication with your doctor.

There seems to be no adverse interactions with alcohol, but due to the possibly adverse effects alcohol may have on a depressed individual, it should be avoided.

Don't discontinue using this drug without consulting your doctor.

## Reminders

Keep this and other medications out of the reach of children

Never share medications with others

Only use this medication as your doctor has prescribed

## Luvox (fluvoxamine)

Luvox is used to treat

- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- Depression
- Panic Attacks

**How it works** - Luvox works by balancing the levels of a neurotransmitter, serotonin, thereby relieving the symptoms of OCD and depression.

## Possible side effects of Luvox

The following list may not contain all of the side effects associated with this medication:

- Most common side effects
  - dry mouth
  - constipation

- anorexia
- nausea
- insomnia
- drowsiness
- Infrequent side effects
  - dizziness
  - headache
  - agitation
  - sleep disorders
  - delayed or absent orgasm
  - diarrhea
  - weakness/loss of strength
- Rare side effects/Risks
  - hypomania
  - liver toxicity

### **Before taking this medication, consult your doctor**

If you have a seizure disorder, heart, kidney, or liver disease.

If you have had a history of drug dependence or abuse.

If you have had a history of mood disorders or thoughts of suicide.

If you are allergic to any other medication, food or other substance.

### **Possible Drug Interactions**

- If you are taking any herbal remedies, vitamins, and/or over-the-counter medications, be sure to tell your physician. The following section offers some, but not necessarily all, of the possible drug interactions.
- Do NOT take MAOIs when taking Luvox or if you have discontinued taking MAO Inhibitors less than 14 days ago. Serious, even fatal, interactions can occur when taking these medications together.

### **DO NOT take Luvox when taking**

Seldane (terfenadine), or

Hismanal (astemizole)

due to the possible serious heart arrhythmias that may occur when these medications are taken together.

### **The following medications when taken with Luvox may lead to drug toxicity**

Elavil (amitriptyline), Benzodiazepines, Tegretol (carbamazepine), Tagamet (cimetidine), Anafranil (clomipramine), Clozaril (clozapine), Tofranil (imipramine), Lithium, Maprotiline, Dilantin (phenytoin), and Theophylline.

Ultram (tramadol) may increase seizure risk

Tryptophan may cause severe vomiting.

Coumadin(warfarin) may lead to bleeding.

Luvox stays in the body up to one-quarter less the time in nonsmokers than smokers.

Marijuana smoking may add to the drowsiness effect of Luvox.

### **Overdose**

Symptoms of overdose include nausea, vomiting, dizziness, hyperactivity, slow heartbeat, tremors, abdominal pain, and seizures.

If you think you may have taken an overdose of Luvox, go to the emergency room or seek other medical attention immediately!

## **Storage**

This medication should be stored in a cool dry area, away from extreme heat and moisture.

## **Other important information**

If you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or breastfeeding, discuss the potential risks of this or any medication with your doctor.

If nausea and vomiting continue for more than two days after you start taking this medication, call your doctor.

A withdrawal syndrome has been reported if this medication is stopped suddenly so do not stop taking this drug without first talking to your doctor.

## **Reminders**

Keep this and all other medications away from children  
Never share your medications with others  
Only use this medication as your doctor prescribed

This information should not be used as substitute for the medical care and advice of your child's physician. Health related topics found on the Andorra Pediatrics web site should not be used for diagnosing purposes or be substituted for medical advice. As with any new or ongoing treatment, always consult your professional healthcare provider before making any changes in treatment or beginning any new treatment. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office.