
DULOXETINE (Cymbalta) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Duloxetine (doo-LOX-e-teen)

Brand Names: Cymbalta, Drizalma Sprinkle

What Does It Treat?

Duloxetine is used to treat major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, fibromyalgia, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, and chronic musculoskeletal pain.

How Does It Work?

Duloxetine is a type of medication known as a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI). It works by increasing the levels of serotonin and norepinephrine, neurotransmitters that help regulate mood and reduce pain signals in the brain.

How Do I Take It?

Duloxetine is available as a delayed-release capsule and sprinkles. The dosage varies depending on the condition being treated. It is usually taken once or twice per day, with or without food.

What is the Dose?

The dose of duloxetine varies depending on the condition being treated. For instance, the typical dosage, used for depression and anxiety, is 30-120 mg per. It is important to follow your health care provider's instructions regarding the dose.

How Long Will I Take It?

The length of time you'll take duloxetine can vary. This often depends on how you respond to the medication and the specifics of your health condition. Your health care provider will advise you, but generally, treatment lasts several months or more.

What If I Miss a Dose?

If you forget a dose of duloxetine, take it as soon as you remember. If it's almost time for your next dose, just skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. Don't take double the dose to make up for a missed one.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Nausea, dry mouth, sleepiness, fatigue, constipation, urinary hesitation, loss of appetite, sexual side effects, increased sweating.
- Serious but rare: Liver problems, low sodium levels in the blood (hyponatremia), skin reactions, abnormal bleeding or easy bruising, changes in blood pressure, eye problems, urinary retention.

What Else Should I Know?

- Duloxetine may interact with other medications, so inform your health care provider of all the medications you are taking.
- You should not take duloxetine if you are allergic to it, if you have uncontrolled narrow-angle glaucoma, or if you are also taking a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI).
- Before starting duloxetine, tell your health care provider if you have a history of a manic episode or bipolar disorder, liver disease, kidney disease, glaucoma, bleeding or clotting disorder, or a history of seizures.

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