Venlafaxine 37.5mg and 75mg tablets

Important things you need to know about venlafaxine

Venlafaxine is for depression

Venlafaxine should not be given to anyone under 18 years of age (see section 3).

Venlafaxine may not work straight away. After your first treatment, you may feel worse before you feel better. It may take between two and six weeks before you start to feel better. Tell your doctor if you do not start to feel better.

Some people are depressed and may think of harming or killing themselves. If you have these thoughts at any time, tell your doctor or go to hospital straight away (see section 2). It is important not to stop taking your medicine without talking to your doctor (see section 3).

If you take too many tablets tell your doctor or go to hospital straight away. Do everything you feel like. This is because taking too much of this medicine can be dangerous.

Do not stop taking your tablets or change the amount you take without checking with your doctor. It is important not to stop taking your tablets too soon (see section 3).

Tell your doctor straight away if you feel relaxed and can stop feeling sad, if you are given any muscle movements which you cannot control (see section 2).

Do not change your treatment plan and do not stop taking your medicine just because you feel better until you have spoken to your doctor (see section 2).

There may be a risk of head injury from falls in the elderly. Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

1. Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

2. If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

3. This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others.

4. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

5. If any of the side effects gets worse, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

• What Venlafaxine tablets are and what they are used for

• How to take

• Possible side effects

• How to store

• Further information

What Venlafaxine tablets are and what they are used for

Venlafaxine is an antidepressant that belongs to a group of medicines called serotonin and noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs). It is used to treat depression and anxiety disorders in adults. It is not fully understood how venlafaxine works, but the medicine increases the levels of serotonin and noradrenaline in the brain.

Venlafaxine tablets are used to treat adults with depression. Treating depression properly is important: If it is not treated, your condition may not go away and may become more serious and more difficult to treat.

How to take

1. Before you take

Do not take Venlafaxine tablets if you:

- are allergic to venlafaxine or any of the other ingredients of the tablets (see section 6).

- are allergic to any other medicines, including those obtained without prescription.

- have a tendency to develop bruises or a tendency to bleed easily (for any type of bleeding disorder, such as haemophilia or von Willebrand’s disorder).

- are allergic to any other medicines (see section 3).

- are allergic to any other medicines obtained without prescription.

- have had depression in the past (for example, from medication or an episode of mania or bipolar disorder).

- have a history of, or if someone in your family has had, manic or bipolar disorder (see section 2).

- have problems, such as certain kinds of glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye).

- have high blood pressure.

- have a history of blood problems.

- have a history of seizures.

- have a history of low sodium levels in your blood (hypotension).

- have a history of heart problems (for example, if you have had a heart attack).

- have a history of bladder problems (for example, if you are a history of bladder problems (for example, if you are a history of bleeding disorders, or if you are taking other medicines that may increase the risk of bleeding).

- have high cholesterol levels or high triglycerides.

- have a history of, or if someone in your family has had, mania or bipolar disorder (see section 2).

- have a history of aggressive behaviour.

- have diabetes.

Take special care with Venlafaxine tablets if you:

- use other medicines that interact with Venlafaxine tablets or with the other ingredients of the tablets (see section 7).

- are allergic to any other medicines, including those obtained without prescription.

- are taking any medicines that you are not sure of (see section 3).

- are allergic to any other medicines (see section 3).

- are allergic to any other medicines obtained without prescription.

- have a history of, or if someone in your family has had, manic or bipolar disorder (see section 2).

- have problems, such as certain kinds of glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye).

- have high blood pressure.

- have a history of blood problems.

- have a history of seizures.

- have a history of low sodium levels in your blood (hypotension).

- have a history of heart problems (for example, if you have had a heart attack).

- have a history of bladder problems (for example, if you are a history of bleeding disorders, or if you are taking other medicines that may increase the risk of bleeding).

- have high cholesterol levels or high triglycerides.

- have a history of, or if someone in your family has had, mania or bipolar disorder (see section 2).

- have a history of aggressive behaviour.

- have diabetes.

Further information

Use in children and adolescents under 18 years of age

Venlafaxine tablets should normally not be used in children and adolescents under 18 years. Also, you should know that patients under 18 have an increased risk of side effects, such as suicidal attempt, suicidal thoughts and hostility (premonitory symptoms, oppositional behaviour and anger) when they take this class of medicines. Despite this, your doctor may prescribe Venlafaxine tablets for patients under 18 because he/she decides this is in the best interest. If your doctor has prescribed Venlafaxine tablets for a patient under 18, and you want to discuss this, please go back to your doctor.

You should inform your doctor if any of the symptoms listed above develop or worsen, especially if there is any indication that the patient is not fully understanding. This is because children or young people under 18 years may have a particularly increased risk of side effects, such as suicide attempt, suicidal thoughts and hostility (premonitory symptoms, oppositional behaviour and anger) when they take this class of medicines. Despite this, your doctor may prescribe Venlafaxine tablets for patients under 18 because he/she decides this is in the best interest. If your doctor has prescribed Venlafaxine tablets for a patient under 18, and you want to discuss this, please go back to your doctor.

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Possible side effects

• a high temperature with rigid muscles, confusion or agitation and sweating,
• dizziness, pins and needles, movement disorder, seizures or fits
• fast or irregular heart rate, increased blood pressure

If you notice any of the following, seek urgent medical attention:

Serious side effects

• severe rash, itching, or hives (elevated patches of red or pale skin that often trouble, ask your doctor for further advice.

As venlafaxine passes into breast milk, there is a risk of an effect on the baby. If you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed, your doctor may advise you to reduce your dose slowly, or not to breastfeed.

Further information

Venlafaxine tablets contain the active substance which makes the medicine work: venlafaxine hydrochloride. The tablet may contain one of: 37.5 mg or 75 mg of venlafaxine. The tablets are coated with a film that makes them easier to swallow.

Venlafaxine tablets may look like and contain images of the pack

Venlafaxine 37.5mg and 75mg Tablets PIL - UK

Venlafaxine can cause confusion, dizziness and blurred vision if you are affected; do not drive or use machinery.

Driving and using machines

Venlafaxine can cause confusion, dizziness and blurred vision. If you are affected; do not drive or use machinery.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Venlafaxine tablets

Venlafaxine tablets contain a sugar called lactose. If you have told your doctor you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

The tablets also contain saccharin (E950) which may cause allergic reactions in some people.

Tests

Venlafaxine tablets can cause unwanted effects that you may not be aware of, such as:

• movement disorders, clumsiness, restlessness, feeling of being drunk, sweating or rigid muscles
• inability to pass urine
• abnormal orgasm (females)
• abnormal dreams, difficulty sleeping, nervousness, sedation, tremor
• weight loss, decreased appetite, constipation, vomiting
• headache, dry mouth (see section 2 ‘Dry mouth’)