Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start treatment with this medicine because it contains important information for you. If you do not understand anything, your doctor may need to read it to you.

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

This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.

If you stop treatment with this medicine, see section 4.

If you get any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet
1. What Escitalopram is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Escitalopram
3. How to take Escitalopram
4. Possible side effects
5. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Escitalopram is and what it is used for

Escitalopram is a medicine which belongs to the SSRI group (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). The medicine acts on the serotonin system in the brain by increasing the serotonin level. Disturbances in the serotonin system are considered an important factor in the development of depression and related disorders.

Escitalopram is used to treat:

• Obsessive-compulsive disorder
• Generalised anxiety disorder

Escitalopram is an antidepressant which is used to treat:

• Depression
• Overactive bladder

Do not take Escitalopram if you are breast-feeding or if you are planning to breast-feed. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before you breast-feed.

Children and adolescents
Escitalopram should normally not be used for children and adolescents under 18 years. Also, you should be aware that the following effects may occur or if there is an increase in the seizure frequency (see section 4 “Other medicines and treatment particularly halofantrine), certain antidepressants, certain antimicrobial medicines (e.g. sulphasalazine, selegiline (used to treat Parkinson's disease), some tricyclic antidepressants, certain antipsychotics (e.g. phenothiazine derivatives, amitriptyline, tranylcypromine as active ingredients. If you have any further questions about this you should ask your doctor. If you are taking any of these medicines you should ask your doctor about Escitalopram.

Certain non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MNIS), containing phenelzine, isocarboxazid, tranylcypromine, moclobemide (used to treat depression)

Irreversible MAO-B inhibitors, containing selegiline (used to treat Parkinson's disease), is functioning

Other medicines and Escitalopram
Tell your pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines.

• Non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MNIS), containing phenelzine, isocarboxazid, tranylcypromine, moclobemide (used to treat depression)

• Irreversible MAO-B inhibitors, containing selegiline (used to treat Parkinson’s disease), is functioning

• “Irreversible MAO-B inhibitors”, containing selegiline (used to treat Parkinson's disease)

2. What you need to know before you take Escitalopram

Before you start treatment with this medicine, tell your doctor:

• If you are allergic to the active substance, Escitalopram
• If you have an a history of

• A heart condition (e.g. heart disease, heart rhythm problems or that may affect the heart's function. Your doctor may need to adjust your dosage)

Your doctor may prescribe Escitalopram for patients under 18 who have a history of

• Hyperthyroidism

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant, breast-feeding, or think you may be pregnant or planning to have a baby, talk to your doctor about the risks and benefits involved.

Make sure you and your doctor know you are on Escitalopram. When taken during pregnancy or breastfeeding, Escitalopram may increase the risk of a serious condition called persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN), making your baby breathe faster and apnoea blinks. These symptoms usually begin during the first days of life but may happen later. If this happens to your baby you should contact your doctor immediately.

If you are planning to get pregnant or breast-feed unless you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Fertility

Citalopram, a medicine like escitalopram, has been shown to reduce the quality of sperm in animal studies. Theoretically, this could affect your ability to have a child. Your doctor will help you decide whether you should stop taking escitalopram now.

Driving and using machines

This medicine can affect reaction times somewhat. Therefore, you should not drive a car or operate machinery that requires your full attention until you know how Escitalopram affects you.

3. How to take Escitalopram

Possible side effects

• Keep this leaflet. You may need to read the leaflet again.

• If you have any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.
How to take Escitalopram

- Escitalopram should be taken once daily. The dose may be increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20 mg per day.
- To treat anxiety (anxiety disorder (social phobia))
  - The recommended dose of Escitalopram is 10 mg as one daily dose. Depending on your response, your doctor may increase your dose to 20 mg per day.
- To treat panic disorders, with or without agoraphobia
  - The starting dose of Escitalopram is 5 mg as one daily dose for the first few weeks increasing the dose to 10 mg per day. The dose may be further increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20 mg per day.
- To treat social anxiety disorder (social phobia)
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- To treat obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)
  - The recommended dose of Escitalopram is 10 mg as one daily dose. The dose may be increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20 mg daily. For long-term treatment, the benefit of treatment should be regularly checked.
- In children and adolescents (below 18 years of age)
  - The recommended starting dose of Escitalopram is 20 mg per day. The dose may be increased by your doctor to 30 mg per day in the 14 days. Your doctor can then raise the dose to 40 mg per day.

Duration of treatment

It may take a couple of weeks before you notice an effect. You may also notice some initial improvements that can be misleading. The Concomitant use of Escitalopram even if it takes some time before you notice a definite benefit. Your doctor may increase the dose of Escitalopram if you do not feel better after a few weeks of taking it. Your doctor may reduce your dose over a number of weeks when you stop taking the medicine if you do not continue to get better.

Possible side effects

In addition to above the following side effects during treatment:
- Side effects most commonly occur in the first one to two weeks of treatment, and normally become less severe and less frequent as treatment progresses.
- If you experience any of the following side effects during treatment, contact your doctor:
  - Unusual attacks of dizziness.
  - Difficulty in sleeping.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any side effects that may occur after treatment has been completed.

How to stop Escitalopram

- The recommended dose of Escitalopram is 5 mg taken as one daily dose. To treat depression, with or without agoraphobia.
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