Package leaflet: Information for the user

VENZIP XL 75 mg prolonged-release capsules, hard VENZIP XL 150 mg prolonged-release capsules, hard

venlafaxine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you. Keep this leaflet. You may need to read

- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- 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 get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4. IMPORTANT THINGS YOU SHOULD

KNOW ABOUT VENZIP XL Please read all of this leaflet before you start to take your medicine as it contains

important information about VENZIP XL VENZIP XL is used to treat depression, severe and persistent

- anxiety known as generalised anxiety disorder (GAD), social anxiety disorder (also known as social phobia) and panic disorder (panic attacks) VENZIP XL is not for use in children and adolescents - see in section 2
- 'Children and adolescents' If you have any concerns about how you feel, or about this medication, it is

important that you talk to your doctor -

even if you feel anxious or worried about doing so. You may find it helpful to tell a friend or relative that you are depressed or suffering from an anxiety disorder, and that you have been prescribed this medication; it might be

useful to show them this leaflet.

VENZIP XL may not start to work immediately. Some people taking antidepressants may feel worse before feeling better. Your doctor may ask to see you again a couple of weeks after you start treatment and then regularly until you start to feel well again. Tell your

- doctor if you do not start to feel better. Some people who are depressed may think of harming or killing themself. If this happens you should see your doctor or go to a hospital straight away - see in section 2 'Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression or anxiety disorder
- attention, even if you feel well, because of the risk of serious side Do not stop taking VENZIP XL or change your dose without the advice of your doctor even if you feel better. If you stop taking VENZIP XL abruptly

If you take too many capsules it is

important to seek immediate medical

you may get withdrawal reactions - see

- in section 3 'If you stop taking VENZIP If you have heart problems such as fast or irregular heart rate or high blood pressure you should talk to your doctor before taking VENZIP **XL** – see in section 2 'Before you take VENZIP XL' Taking certain other medicines with
- ou should tell your doctor if you taking any other medicines - see in section 2 'What you need to know before you take VENZIP XL' See your doctor without delay if you feel restless and feel like you can't keep

VENZIP XL may cause problems.

If you are pregnant, or intend to become pregnant, or breast-feeding, you should talk to your doctor - see in section 2 'Pregnancy and breast-feeding More information on all of these points is provided in the rest of this leaflet.

control. See section 4 - 'Possible side

effects' for other important information

1. What VENZIP XL is and what it is used What you need to know before you take

How to store VENZIP XL 6. Contents of the pack and other

What is in this leaflet

- information
- VENZIP XL contains the active substance venlafaxine. VENZIP XL

and norepinephrine

reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs). This group of medicines is used to

is an antidepressant that

belongs to a group of medicines called serotonin

work, but they may levels of serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain.

even life-threatening side effects. Also, you must wait at least 7 days after you stop taking VENZIP XL before you take any MAOI (see also the section entitled "Other medicines and VENZIP XL" and

the information in that section about 'Serotonin Syndrome'). Warnings and precautions

- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking VENZIP XL: If you use other medicines that taken the risk of developing serotonin
- If you have a history of high blood pressure. If you have a history of heart problems. If you have been told you have an
- bruises or a tendency to bleed easily (history of bleeding disorders or if you are pregnant see 'Pregnancy and breast-feeding'), or if you are taking

other medicines that may increase the

risk of bleeding e.g., warfarin (used to

levels in your blood (hyponatraemia).

If you have a tendency to develop

- prevent blood clots). If you have a history of, or if someone in your family has had, mania or bipolar disorder (feeling over-excited or
- restlessness or an inability to sit or stand still during the first few weeks of treatment.

You should tell your doctor if this happens

Concomitant use with alcohol and/or certain medicines can make your symptoms of anxiety disorders worse.

depression or anxiety disorder

still, feel 'high' or very over-excited, have jerky muscle movements which you can't

> VENZIP XL How to take VENZIP XL 4. Possible side effects

What VENZIP XL is and what it is used

> treat depression and other conditions such as anxiety disorders. It is not fully understood how antidepressants

help by increasing the VENZIP XL is a treatment for adults with depression. It is also a treatment for adults with the following anxiety disorders: generalised anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder (fear or avoidance of social situations) and panic disorder (panic attacks). Treating depression or anxiety disorders properly is important to help you get better. If it is not treated, your condition may not go away and may become more serious and more difficult to treat. What you need to know before you take VENZIP XL

Do not take VENZIP XL If you are allergic to venlafaxine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6). If you are also taking, or have taken within the last 14 days, any medicines known as irreversible monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs), used to treat depression or Parkinson's disease. Taking an irreversible MAOI together with VENZIP XL, can cause serious or

together with VENZIP XL could increase syndrome (see the section Other medicines and VENZIP XL"). If you have eye problems, such as certain kinds of glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye). abnormal heart rhythm If you have a history of fits (seizures). If you have a history of low sodium

- If you have a history of aggressive behaviour. VENZIP XL may cause a sensation of
- Do not drink alcohol while being treated with VENZIP XL as it can lead to extreme tiredness and unconsciousness.

depression and other conditions, such as Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your If you are depressed and/or have anxiety

dose is decreased or during discontinuation of treatment with VENZIP XL. You may be more likely to think like this:

These thoughts may also occur when your

If you have previously had thoughts about killing yourself or harming

If you are a young adult. Information from clinical trials has shown an

increased risk of suicidal behaviour in young adults (less than 25 years old) with psychiatric conditions who were treated with an antidepressant. If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, contact your doctor or

go to a hospital straight away. You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed or have an anxiety disorder, and ask them to read

this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression or anxiety is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour. Dry mouth is reported in 10% of patients treated with venlafaxine. This may increase

the risk of tooth decay (caries). Therefore, you should take special care in your dental

hygiene. Your blood glucose levels may be altered due to VENZIP XL. Therefore, the dosages of your diabetes medicines may need to be

Sexual problems Medicines like Venzip XL(so called SNRIs) may cause symptoms of sexual dysfunction

(see section 4). In some cases, these symptoms have continued after stopping treatment. Children and adolescents VENZIP XL should normally not be used for children and adolescents under 18 years.

Also, you should know that patients under 18 have an increased risk of side effects,

such as suicide attempt, suicidal thoughts and hostility (predominantly aggression, oppositional behaviour and anger) when they take this class of medicines. Despite this, your doctor may prescribe this medicine for patients under 18 because he/she decides that this is in their best interests. If your doctor has prescribed this medicine 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 when patients under 18 are taking VENZIP XL. Also, the long-term safety effects concerning growth, maturation and cognitive and behavioural development of this medicine in this age group has not yet been demonstrated. Other medicines and VENZIP XL Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

including those bought without a prescription, natural and herbal remedies, before checking with your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not start or stop taking any medicines,

Your doctor should decide whether you can

take VENZIP XL with other medicines.

Monoamine oxidase inhibitors which are seu io ireai depi disease must not be taken with VENZIP XL. Tell your doctor if you have taken these medicines within the last 14 days. (MAOIs: see the section "What you need to know before you take

VENZIP XL ").

Serotonin syndrome:
A potentially life-threatening condition or Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS)-like reactions (see the section "Possible Side Effects"), may occur with venlafaxine treatment, particularly when taken with other medicines Examples of these medicines include: Triptans (used for migraine)

Other medicines to treat depression,

Medicines containing amphetamines (used to treat attention deficit

for instance SNRIs, SSRIs, tricyclics, or

hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), narcolepsy and obesity)

for weight loss)

mild depression)

becoming withdrawn)

medicines containing lithium

Medicines containing linezolid, an antibiotic (used to treat infections) Medicines containing moclobemide, a MAOI (used to treat depression)

Medicines containing sibutramine (used

tapentadol, pethidine, or pentazocine (used to treat severe pain) Medicines containing dextromethorphan (used to treat coughing) Medicines containing methadone (used

to treat opioid drug addiction or severe

Medicines containing opioids (eg.

buprenorphine tramadol, fentanyl

blue (used to treat high levels of methaemoglobin in the blood) Products containing St. John's Wort (also called Hypericum perforatum, a natural or herbal remedy used to treat

Medicines containing methylene

Products containing tryptophan (used for problems such as sleep and depression) Antipsychotics (used to treat a disease with symptoms such as hearing, seeing or sensing things which are

not there, mistaken beliefs, unusual

Signs and symptoms of serotonin syndrome

may include a combination of the following:

restlessness, hallucinations, loss of

suspiciousness, unclear reasoning and

coordination, fast heart beat, increased body temperature, fast changes in blood pressure, overactive reflexes, diarrhoea, coma, nausea, vomiting.

In its most severe form, serotonin syndrome

can resemble Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS). Signs and symptoms of NMS may include a combination of fever, fast heart beat, sweating, severe muscle stiffness, confusion, increased muscle enzymes (determined by a blood test). Tell your doctor immediately, or go to

the casualty department at your nearest

is happening to you.

infections)

hospital if you think serotonin syndrome

You must tell your doctor if you are taking medicines that can affect your heart rhythm. Examples of these medicines include: Antiarrhythmics such as quinidine, amiodarone, sotalol or dofetilide (used to treat abnormal heart rhythm) Antipsychotics such as thioridazine (See also Serotonin syndrome above)

Antibiotics such as erythromycin or

moxifloxacin (used to treat bacterial

Antihistamines (used to treat allergy)

The following medicines may also interact

with VENZIP XL and should be used with caution. It is especially important to mention to your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking medicines containing:

Ketoconazole (an antifungal medicine)

Metoprolol (a beta blocker to treat high

Haloperidol or risperidone (to treat

psychiatric conditions)

blood pressure and heart problems) VENZIP XL with food, drink and alcohol VENZIP XL should be taken with food (see section 3 "How to take VENZIP XL"). Do not drink alcohol while being treated with VENZIP XL. Concomitant use with

alcohol can lead to extreme tiredness

your symptoms of depression and other

and unconsciousness and can make

Pregnancy and breast-feeding If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to

have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine. You

should use VENZIP XL only after discussing

conditions, such as anxiety disorders worse.

the potential benefits and the potential risks to your unborn child with your doctor. Make sure your midwife and/or doctor knows you are on venlafaxine. When taken during pregnancy, similar drugs (SSRIs) may increase the risk of a serious condition

in babies, called persistent pulmonary

hypertension of the newborn (PPHN),

making the baby breathe faster and appear bluish. These symptoms usually begin during the first 24 hours after the baby is born. If this happens to your baby you should contact your midwife and/or doctor immediately. If you are taking this medicine during

pregnancy, in addition to having trouble breathing, another symptom your baby might have when it is born is not feeding properly. If your baby has these symptoms when it is born and you are concerned, contact your doctor and/or midwife who will be able to advise you. If you take VENZIP XL near the end of your pregnancy there may be an increased risk of heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth,

especially if you have a history of bleeding disorders. Your doctor or midwife should be aware that you are taking VENZIP XL so they can advise you.

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disorders, you can sometimes have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. These thoughts may be increased when you first start taking antidepressants, since these medicines all take time to work, usually about two weeks, but sometimes longer.

Submission Code: N09878_u3

VENZIP XL passes into breast milk. There is a risk of an effect on the baby. Therefore, you should discuss the matter with your doctor, and he/she will decide whether you should stop breast-feeding or stop the therapy with this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Do not drive or use any tools or machines until you know how this medicine affects

VENZIP XL capsules contain sugar spheres, containing sucrose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance for some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product. VENZIP XL contains Sodium

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dosage unit, that is to

say essentially 'sodium-free'. 3. How to take VENZIP XL

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor

or pharmacist if you are not sure. The usual recommended starting dose for treatment of depression, generalised

anxiety disorder and social anxiety disorder is 75 mg per day. The dose can be raised by your doctor gradually, and if needed, even up to a maximum dose of 375 mg daily for depression. If you are being treated for panic disorder, your doctor will start with a lower dose (37.5 mg) and then increase the dose gradually. The maximum dose for generalised anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder and panic disorder is 225 mg/day. Take VENZIP XL at approximately the same time each day, either in the morning or in

the evening. Capsules must be swallowed whole with fluid and not opened, crushed, chewed or dissolved. VENZIP XL should be taken with food. If you have liver or kidney problems, talk

to your doctor, since your dose of this medicine may need to be different.

Do not stop taking this medicine without talking to your doctor (see the section "If you stop taking VENZIP XL").

If you take more VENZIP XL than you

Call your doctor or pharmacist immediately if you take more of this medicine than the amount prescribed by your doctor.

Overdose can be life-threatening, especially with concomitant use of alcohol and/or certain medicines (see "Other medicines

and VENZIP XL"). The symptoms of a possible overdose may include a rapid heart beat, changes in level of alertness (ranging from sleepiness to coma), blurred vision, seizures or fits, and vomiting.

If you forget to take VENZIP XL If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take only a single dose as usual. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten

dose. Do not take more than the daily amount of VENZIP XL that has been prescribed for you in one day. If you stop taking VENZIP XL Do not stop taking your treatment or reduce the dose without the advice of your doctor even if you feel better. If your doctor thinks that you no longer need VENZIP XL, he/ she may ask you to reduce your dose slowly before stopping treatment altogether. Side

effects are known to occur when people stop using this medicine, especially when it ed suddenly or the dose is rec too quickly. Some patients may experience symptoms such as suicidal thoughts, aggressiveness, tiredness, dizziness, lightheadedness, headache, sleeplessness, nightmares, dry mouth, loss of appetite, nausea, diarrhoea, nervousness, agitation, confusion, ringing in the ears, tingling or rarely electric shock sensations, weakness, sweating, seizures, or flu-like symptoms, problems with eyesight and increase in blood pressure (which can cause headache, dizziness, ringing in the ears, sweating, etc). Your doctor will advise you on how you should gradually discontinue VENZIP XL treatment. This can take a period of several weeks or months. In some patients, discontinuation may need to occur very gradually over periods of months or longer. If you experience any of these or other

4. Possible side effects Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

symptoms that are troublesome, ask your

If you have any further questions on the

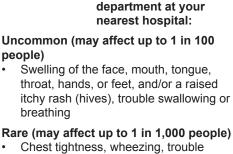
use of this medicine, ask your doctor or

VENZIP XL. Tell your doctor immediately, or go to the casualty

doctor for further advice.

pharmacist.

people)



swallowing or breathing

often itch)

nearest hospital: Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 Swelling of the face, mouth, tongue, throat, hands, or feet, and/or a raised

If any of the following

happen, do not take more

Signs and symptoms of serotonin syndrome which may include restlessness, hallucinations, loss of coordination, fast heart beat, increased

Severe skin rash, itching, or hives

(elevated patches of red or pale skin that

body temperature, fast changes in blood

pressure, overactive reflexes, diarrhoea, coma, nausea, vomiting. In its most severe form, serotonin syndrome can resemble Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS). Signs and symptoms of NMS may include a combination of fever, fast heart beat,

sweating, severe muscle stiffness,

confusion, increased muscle enzymes

(determined by a blood test). Signs of infection, such as high temperature, chills, shivering, headaches, sweating, flu-like symptoms. This may be the result of a blood disorder which leads to an increased risk of infection. Severe rash, which may lead to severe

blistering and peeling of the skin.

rhabdomyolysis.

heartbeat.

high temperature

VENZIP XL").

Unexplained muscle pain, tenderness

or weakness. This may be a sign of

Frequency not known (cannot be estimated from the available data) Signs and symptoms of a condition called "stress cardiomyopathy" which may include chest pain, shortness of

breath, dizziness, fainting, irregular

Other side effects that you should tell your

doctor about include (The frequency of

these side effects are included in the list "Other side effects that may occur" below): Coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath which may be accompanied by a

Black (tarry) stools or blood in stools

Itchiness, yellow skin or eyes, or dark urine, which may be symptoms of

- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis) Heart problems, such as fast or irregular heart rate, increased blood pressure Eye problems, such as blurred vision, dilated pupils Nerve problems, such as dizziness,
- Psychiatric problems, such as hyperactivity and feeling unusually overexcited. Withdrawal effects (see the section "How

to take VENZIP XL, if you stop taking

pins and needles, movement disorder (muscle spasms or stiffness), seizures or

- Prolonged bleeding if you cut or injure yourself, it may take slightly longer than usual for bleeding to stop. Do not be concerned if you see small
- XL capsules are spheroids (small white balls) that contain the active ingredient (venlafaxine). These spheroids are released from the capsule into your stomach. As they travel through your stomach and intestines, venlafaxine is

white balls or granules in your stools after taking this medicine. Inside VENZIP

does not dissolve and is passed out in your stools. So, even though you may see spheroids in your stools, your dose of medicine has been absorbed.

Very common (may affect more than 1 in

slowly released. The spheroid "shell"

Dizziness; headache, drowsiness

Other side effects that may occur

10 people)

Insomnia

- Sweating (including night sweats) Common (may affect up to 1 in 10
- people) Appetite decreased

Confusion; feeling separated (or

detached) from yourself; lack of orgasm; decreased libido; agitation, nervousness; abnormal dreams

Nausea; dry mouth, constipation

- Tremor, a sensation of restlessness or an inability to sit or stand still, pins and needles altered taste sensation; increased muscle tonus Visual disturbance including blurred
- vision; dilated pupils; inability of the eye to automatically change focus from distant to near objects Ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
- Fast heartbeat, palpitations Increase in blood pressure; flushing
- Shortness of breath; yawning
- Vomiting; diarrhoea
- Mild rash, itching Increased frequency in urination; inability
- Menstrual irregularities such as increased bleeding or increased irregular
- bleeding; abnormal ejaculation/orgasm (males); erectile dysfunction (impotence) Weakness (asthenia); fatigue; chills

to pass urine, difficulties passing urine

- Weight gain; weight loss Increased cholesterol
- Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100
- people) Over activity, racing thoughts and

Hallucinations; feeling separated (or detached) from reality; abnormal orgasm ; lack of feeling or emotion; feeling over-

decreased need for sleep (mania)

- excited; grinding of the teeth Fainting; involuntary movements of the muscles; impaired coordination and balance
- up too quickly); decrease in blood pressure Vomiting blood, black tarry stools

Feeling dizzy (particularly when standing

- (faeces) or blood in stools; which can be a sign of internal bleeding Sensitivity to sunlight; bruising;
- abnormal hair loss Inability to control urination Stiffness, spasms and involuntary
- Slight changes in blood levels of liver enzymes

Seizures or fits

movements of the muscles

Coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath which may be accompanied by a high temperature

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Disorientation and confusion often accompanied by hallucination (delirium) Excessive water intake (known as SIADH)
- Decrease in blood sodium levels Severe eye pain and decreased or blurred vision

Abnormal, rapid or irregular heartbeat,

which could lead to fainting Severe abdominal or back pains (which could indicate a serious problem in the

gut, liver or pancreas)

of bruising or bleeding

- Itchiness, yellow skin or eyes, dark urine, or flu-like symptoms, which are symptoms of inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)
- Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 Prolonged bleeding, which may be a sign of reduced number of platelets in your blood, leading to an increased risk

Abnormal breast milk production Unexpected bleeding, e.g. bleeding gums, blood in the urine or in vomit, or

or broken blood vessels (broken veins) Frequency not known(cannot be estimated from the available data) Suicidal ideation and suicidal behaviours; cases of suicidal ideation

and suicidal behaviours have been

reported during venlafaxine therapy or

the appearance of unexpected bruises

early after treatment discontinuation (see section 2, What you need to know before you take VENZIP XL)

Aggression Vertigo Heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth (postpartum haemorrhage), see Pregnancy and breast-feeding in section 2 for more information. VENZIP XL sometimes causes unwanted effects that you may not be aware of, such

as increases in blood pressure or abnormal

Therefore, your doctor may wish to do blood

heart beat; slight changes in blood levels of liver enzymes, sodium or cholesterol.

More rarely, VENZIP XL may reduce the function of platelets in your blood, leading to an increased risk of bruising or bleeding.

tests occasionally, particularly if you have been taking VENZIP XL for a long time. Reporting of side effects If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly (see details below). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine. The United Kingdom Yellow Card Scheme

Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or

search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google

Play or Apple App Store. 5. How to store VENZIP XL

storage conditions.

information

sulfate.

of the pack

black ink.

capsules, hard

iron oxide (E172).

What VENZIP XL contains

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children. Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the Blister, bottle label and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicine does not require any special

Do not throw away any medicines via

6. Contents of the pack and other

wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

hydrochloride). Each prolonged-release capsule contains 150 mg of venlafaxine (as hydrochloride). Other ingredients in the capsules are: Sugar spheres (containing sucrose),

hypromellose, talc and ethyl cellulose.

Cap: Gelatine, iron oxide red (E172),

The active substance is venlafaxine.

Each prolonged-release capsule

contains 75 mg of venlafaxine (as

titanium dioxide (E171) and sodium lauryl sulphate. Body: Gelatin, iron oxide red (E172), titanium dioxide (E171), sodium lauryl

The printing ink contains: Shellac and black

What VENZIP XL looks like and contents

The capsule shell contains:

Prolonged-release capsule, hard. VENZIP XL 75 mg prolonged-release capsules, hard White to off-white spherical to oval pellets filled in Empty hard gelatin capsule shell (size '1') of Opaque Peach color cap and Opaque Peach color body imprinted with "E" on cap and "74" on the body with edible

(size '0') of Opaque Dark orange color cap and Opaque Dark orange color body imprinted with "E" on cap and "89" on the body with edible black ink.

Venlafaxine capsules are available in

VENZIP XL 150 mg prolonged-release

White to off-white spherical to oval pellets filled in Empty hard gelatin capsule shell

Clear PVC/PE/PVDC-Aluminium foil: VENZIP XL 75 mg/150 mg: 7, 10, 14, 20, 28, 30, 50, 56, 60, 90, 98 and 100 capsules HDPE Bottle with polypropylene closure: VENZIP XL 75 mg/150 mg: 30, 100 and 500 capsules Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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Malta This leaflet was last revised in 11/2024.

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