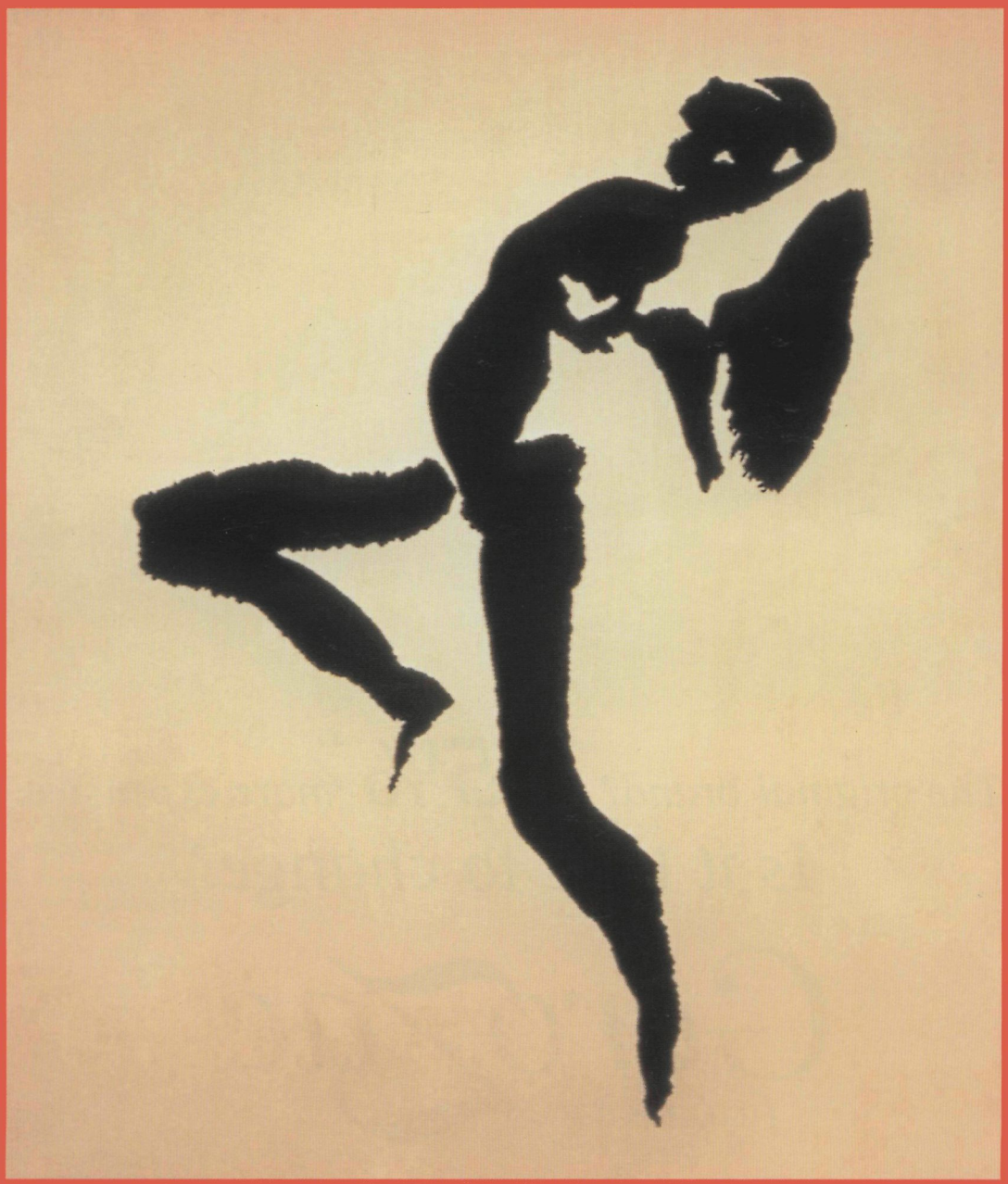
IRISH JOURNAL OF
PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE
VOL 19 NO 4 DEC 2002 ISSN 0790-9667



'The boy Cúchulainn' (1969) by Louis le Brocquy (Aubusson tapestry, 1999, 184 x 129cm) From an exhibition at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin 8. (The Táin Tapestries, 4 July 2002 – 26 January 2003). Donated by Brian Timmins and Vivienne Ward, 2001

A brighter outlook for prescribers of fluoxetine

The original brand? - **25%** more expensive.[1]

Is it time to change?

GeroZac®

fluoxetine

SUPPORTING JOBS IN IRELAND

GERARD LABORATORIES

GEROZAC: (fluoxetine HCL) Abbreviated prescribing information: Presentation: Each capsule contains fluoxetine hydrochloride equivalent to 20 mg of fluoxetine. **Indications: GEROZAC** is indicated for the treatment of major depressive episodes. **Dose:** A dose of 20 mg/day is recommended and a maximum daily dose should not exceed 80 mg/day, which can be administered as single or divided dose, during or between meals. ***Patients with renal or liver disease:*** In cases of liver dysfunction or renal failure (GFR 10-50 ml/min), the dose should be reduced, e.g. to 20 mg every second day. ***Children:*** Fluoxetine capsules are not indicated for use in children and adolescents below the age of 18. ***Elderly:*** Caution is recommended when increasing the dose, which should rarely exceed 40 mg and should not exceed 60 mg. ***Method of administration:*** For oral administration. ***Contraindications:*** Concurrent treatment with MAOIs (monoamine oxidase inhibitors). Cautionary use with other antidepressants. Not to be used where there is severe renal failure (GFR < 10ml/min). Unstable or uncontrolled epilepsy. Not to be used by nursing mothers. Hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients. **Precautions:** As with all antidepressants risk of suicide particularly at the beginning of treatment due to the *delay between treatment and clinical improvement. Concomittant use of tryptophan. Epilepsy, electroconvulsive therapy, cardiovascular disease, recent myocardial infarction, diabetes, alcohol, hepatic and renal* insufficiency, and overdose. **Side-effects:** rash and allergic reaction, psychosis and mood shift towards manic phase, serotonin syndrome, inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone, anorexia, weight loss, appetite loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dry mouth, dyspepsia, constipation, headache, restlessness, insomnia, anxiety, dizziness, visual disturbance, drowsiness, confusion, tremor, sweating, sedation. Small increases in diastolic blood pressure and tachycardia as well as bradycardia. Hyperprolactinemia with galactorrhea, hyponatremias. Rare cases of increased ALTs and exceptional cytolytic or mixed hepatitis. **Product authorisation holder:** Generics (UK) Ltd, Station Close, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 1TL, England. **Product authorisation number:** PA/405/36/1 Available only on prescription. **Date of preparation or last review:** January 2002. For full prescribing information please see the Summary of Product Characteristics. **Further information is available from:** Gerard Laboratories, 2004A Orchard Avenue, CityWest Business Campus, Naas Rd, Dublin 24. **FREEPHONE 1800 272 272**. Fax: 01 466 1912 **Reference: 1.** MIMS January 2002. **GMS REIMBURSABLE 1ST. FEBRUARY 2000.** Code No.: 26232

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0790966700007242 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Submissions & correspondence to:
The Editor,
Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine,
25 Adelaide Street,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin, Ireland.

Telephone: 00-353-1-2803967

Fax: 00-353-1-2807076

Email: psychological@medmedia.ie

Website: www.ijpm.org

Publisher
MedMedia Ltd.
25 Adelaide Street, Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin, Ireland.

Printing: W&G Bairds Ltd

Subscriptions
Rates per volume of four issues
(Mar, Jun, Sept, Dec) Price Regions:
EU countries: €107, Stg65
Rest of World: €126, $111
Incl. airmail postage internationally.

Subscription enquiries, orders and cheques made payable to:
Turpin Distribution Service Ltd
Blackhorse Road, Letchworth
SG6 1HN, England.
Tel : +44 01462 672555
Fax: + 44 01462 480947
Email: CustServTurpin@turpinltd.com
www.turpin-distribution.com

Circulation
2,200 to 54 countries.
The Journal participates in the World Health Organisation project to improve distribution of scientific materials on mental health. Publication does not imply endorsement.

IRISH JOURNAL OF **PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE**

VOL 19 NO 4 DEC 2002 ISSN 0790-9667

Indexed and abstracted by BIOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (BIOSIS Previews); CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE/INIST: PASCAL; EXCERPTA MEDICA/EMBASE; INSTITUTE FOR SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION: CURRENT CONTENTS/ Social & Behavioural Sciences (Social Science CITATION INDEX, Research Alert); PSYCHOLOGICAL ABSTRACTS (PsycINFO/PsycLIT); Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health Literature, Current AIDS Literature (CAB Abstracts), International Pharmaceutical Abstracts, Linguistics & Language Behaviour Abstracts, Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews, (CAB Abstracts), Referativnyi Zhurnal, Social Planning/Policy & Development Abstracts, Social Work Research & Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts.

Microfilm, microfiche & article copies from **University Microfilms International**, 300 North Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106, USA. Journal included in the **Adonis** service, whereby article copies can be printed out from compact disks (CD-ROM) on demand; explanatory leaflet available from ADONIS BV, PO Box 639, 1000 AV Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Journal listed in **Ulrich's** International Periodicals Directory (**Bowker** International Serials Database), **EBSCO's** Selected Periodicals for the Medical and Health Sciences, & EBSCO's Librarians' Handbook.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0790966700007242 Published online by Cambridge University Press

In Depression & Anxiety...

... Patients Get Better and Stay Better with

LUSTRAL™ 50 MG
sertraline

Pfizer NEUROSCIENCE

Abbreviated Prescribing Information: LUSTRAL™ (sertraline) **Presentation:** Tablets containing 50mg or 100mg sertraline. **Indications:** Treatment of symptoms of depressive illness, including accompanying symptoms of anxiety. Prevention of relapse or recurrence of depressive episodes, including accompanying symptoms of anxiety. Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) in adults and children. Panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). **Dosage:** Lustral should be given as a single daily dose. The initial dose in depression and OCD is 50mg and the usual antidepressant dose is 50mg. The initial dose in panic disorder and PTSD is 25mg, increasing to 50mg after one week. Dosage can be further increased, if appropriate, to a maximum of 200mg daily. Changes in dose should not be made more frequently than once per week given the 24 hour elimination half life of sertraline. Patients should be maintained on the lowest effective dose. *Use in children (OCD only): Ages 6-12:* The initial dose is 25 mg/day increasing to 50 mg/day after 1 week. *Ages 13-17:* Usual adult dose. Consider generally lower body weights of children to avoid overdosing. Do not increase doses at intervals of less than 1 week. *Use in the elderly:* Usual adult dose. **Contra-indications:** Hypersensitivity to this group of drugs. Hepatic insufficiency, unstable epilepsy and convulsant disorders, pregnancy and lactation. Do not use with, or within two weeks of ending treatment with, MAOIs. At least 14 days should elapse before starting any MAOI following discontinuation of Lustral. **Precautions, warnings:** Renal insufficiency, ECT, epilepsy, driving. Lustral should be discontinued in a patient who develops seizures. Lustral should not be administered with benzodiazepines or other tranquillizers in patients who drive or operate machinery. Serotonergic drugs such as tryptophan or fenfluramine should be used with caution. Patients [illegible] attempt or activation of mania/hypomania. **Drug Interactions:** Caution with other centrally active medication. Lithium levels should be monitored. Although Lustral has been shown to have no adverse interaction with alcohol, concomitant use with alcohol is not recommended. The potential for Lustral to interact with other highly protein bound drugs should be borne in mind. Interactions with e.g. warfarin, diazepam, tolbutamide and cimetidine have not been fully assessed. With warfarin prothrombin time should be monitored when Lustral is initiated or stopped. **Side-Effects:** Dry mouth, nausea, diarrhoea/loose stools, ejaculatory delay, tremor, increased sweating, dizziness, insomnia, somnolence, headache, anorexia and dyspepsia. Rarely, abnormal LFTs, hyponatraemia. Additionally agitation and hyperkinesia in paediatric OCD patients. The following have been reported with Lustral but may have no causal relationship: vomiting, abdominal pain, movement disorders, convulsions, menstrual irregularities, hyperprolactinaemia, galactorrhoea, rash and alopecia. Rarely, pancreatitis, serious liver events, altered platelet function, abnormal bleeding and purpura. As with other serotonin re-uptake inhibitors rare reports of agitation, confusion, depersonalisation, hallucinations, nervousness, postural hypotension, hypo/hypertension, tachycardia and arrhythmias. Withdrawal reactions have been reported with Lustral. Common symptoms include dizziness, paraesthesia, headache, anxiety and nausea. Abrupt discontinuation of treatment with Lustral should be avoided. The majority of symptoms experienced on withdrawal of Lustral are non-serious and self-limiting. **Legal Category:** S1A. **Package Quantities:** 50mg tablet (PA 822/1/4) Calendar pack of 28; 100mg tablet (PA 822/1/5) Calendar pack of 28. **Product Authorisation Holder:** Pfizer (Ireland) Limited, Parkway House, Ballymount Road Lower, Dublin 12, Republic of Ireland. **Further information on request:** Pfizer (Ireland) Limited. **Date last revised:** February 2002

Pfizer