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Editorial

Original Papers

Brief Reports

Audit

Review

Case Reports

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Let's get straight to the point.

Efexor XL - an **effective first-line** treatment for depression and generalised anxiety disorder[1-3]*

EFEXOR XL
VENLAFAXINE XL

DEPRESSION • DEPRESSION WITH ANXIETY • GENERALISED ANXIETY DISORDER (GAD) • DEPRESSION • DEPRESSION WITH ANXIETY • GENERALISED ANXIETY DISO

EFEXOR* XL venlafaxine - PRESCRIBING INFORMATION (Ireland). Presentation: Efexor XL: capsules containing 75mg or 150mg venlafaxine (as hydrochloride) in an extended release formulation. **Use:** Treatment of depressive illness including depression accompanied by anxiety, Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) primarily characterised by chronic and excessive worry and anxiety for at least 6 months; for the prevention of relapses of the initial episode of depression or for the prevention of the recurrence of new depressive episodes. **Dosage:** ***Adults (including the elderly): Depressive illness including depression accompanied by anxiety:*** **Efexor XL:** Usually 75mg, given once daily with food, increasing to 150mg once daily if necessary. The dose can be increased further to 225mg once a day. Dose increments should be made at intervals of approximately 2 weeks or more, but not less than 4 days. ***Prevention of Relapse/ Recurrence:*** Usually, the dosage for prevention of relapse, or for prevention of recurrence of a new episode, is similar to that used during the index episode. Patients should be re-assessed regularly in order to evaluate the benefit of long-term therapy. ***Generalised Anxiety Disorder:*** **Efexor XL:** Usually 75mg, given once daily with food, increasing to 150mg once daily if necessary. The dose can be increased further to 225mg once a day. Dose increments should be made at intervals of approximately 2 weeks or more, but not less than 4 days. ***Discontinuation:*** Discontinue gradually to reduce the possibility of withdrawal reactions. ***Children:*** Contraindicated below 18 years of age. ***Moderate renal or moderate hepatic impairment:*** Doses should be reduced by 50%. Not recommended in severe renal or severe hepatic impairment. **Contra-indications:** Concomitant use with MAOIs, hypersensitivity to venlafaxine or other components, patients aged below 18 years. **Precautions:** The risk of suicide should be considered in all patients. Use with caution in patients with myocardial infarction, unstable heart disease, renal or hepatic impairment, narrow angle glaucoma, mania, a history of epilepsy (discontinue in event of seizure), using neuroleptics or diuretics or predisposed to bleeding. Patients should not drive or operate machinery if their ability to do so is impaired. Possibility of postural hypotension (especially in the elderly). Prescribe smallest quantity of capsules or tablets according to good patient management. Blood pressure monitoring is recommended. Advise patients to notify their doctor should an allergy develop or if they become or intend to become pregnant. Patients with a history of drug abuse should be monitored carefully. Cholesterol measurement is recommended with long term use. Venlafaxine should not be used with weight loss agents. Usually not recommended during pregnancy or lactation. **Interactions:** MAOIs: do not use venlafaxine in combination with MAOIs or within 14 days of stopping MAOI treatment. Allow 7 days after stopping venlafaxine before starting an MAOI. Use with caution in elderly or hepatically-impaired patients taking cimetidine, in patients taking other CNS-active drugs in particular serotonergic drugs, clozapine or haloperidol; in patients taking warfarin and in patients taking drugs which inhibit *both* CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 hepatic enzymes. Caution is advised with concurrent use of ECT. **Side-effects:** Most commonly occurring: constipation, nausea, asthenia, headache, dizziness, dry mouth, insomnia, nervousness, somnolence, abnormal ejaculation/orgasm, sweating. Also reported: vasodilatation, hypotension/postural hypotension, hypertension, palpitation, syncope, ecchymosis, mucous membrane bleeding, GI bleeding, anorexia, appetite decreased, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, vomiting, abdominal pain, bruxism, abnormal dreams, chills, pyrexia, weight gain or loss, increased serum cholesterol hyponatraemia, increased liver enzymes, arthralgia, myalgia, muscle spasm, agitation, anxiety, confusion, hypertonia, paraesthesia, tremor, myoclonus, apathy, hallucinations, urinary frequency and retention, anorgasmia, erectile dysfunction, decreased libido, impotence, menstrual cycle disorders, menorrhagia, dyspnoea; pruritis, rash, angioedema, maculopapular eruptions, urticaria, photosensitivity reactions, alopecia, mydriasis, tinnitus, abnormal vision/accommodation, altered taste sensation. Hostility and suicidal ideation in paediatric patients. Rarely reported: thrombocytopenia, haemorrhage, prolonged bleeding time, arrhythmias, hepatitis, SIADH, ataxia and disorders of balance and co-ordination, speech disorders including dysarthria, extrapyramidal disorders including dyskinesia, dystonia, mania or hypomania, neuroleptic malignant syndrome-like effects or serotonergic syndrome, galactorrhoea, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, very rarely anaphylaxis, blood dyscrasias, ECG changes, pancreatitis, increased prolactin, rhabdomyolysis, delirium, pulmonary eosinophilia. Symptoms reported on discontinuation of venlafaxine were mostly non-serious and self-limiting and included dizziness, insomnia, nausea and nervousness. **PA Numbers:** Efexor XL 75mg capsule (PA 22/65/5). Efexor XL 150mg capsule (PA 22/65/6). **Legal Category:** S1A. Further information is available upon request from: Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, M50 Business Park, Ballymount Road Upper, Walkinstown, Dublin 12. **Marketing Authorisation Holder:** John Wyeth & Brother Limited, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 0PH. **References. 1**. Simon JS, Aguiar LM, Kunz NR, *et al.* Extended-release venlafaxine in relapse prevention for patients with major depressive disorder. *J Psychiatr Res.* 2004; 38: 249-257. **2**. Gelenberg AJ, Lydiard RB, Rudolph RL, *et al.* Efficacy of venlafaxine extended-release capsules in nondepressed outpatients with generalised anxiety disorder: a 6-month randomized controlled trial. *JAMA.* 2000; 283: 3082-3088.
3. Efexor XL SmPC, November 2004. Date of preparation: 21 December 2004. * trade mark Code no. ZEFE1161

Wyeth