

Information for Patients about

Duloxetine



Duloxetine is a drug which is used to treat certain types of neuropathic pain, depression, stress incontinence in women, and certain types of anxiety. You are on this medicine to treat your pain.

- Take only as directed. You will probably start on 30mg once a day which usually you should take at night.
- It may take a few days or even weeks before you feel any pain relief.
- Duloxetine can interact (affect) with other medication like Tramadol, Warfarin or some herbal products. You should always tell your GP or Community Pharmacist what other medication you are on or buying so that they can advise you about this.

Possible Side Effects:

We advise you to read the information leaflet that will be included with your medication.

- The most common side effect is drowsiness. This is usually temporary. If you are affected by this do not drive or operate machinery. You must tell the DVLA if you are on any medicines which affect your driving.
- The combination of Duloxetine with alcohol can cause significant drowsiness. We advise you not to drink when you first take this medication, and whilst increasing the dose. Once you are on a stable dose, you may drink alcohol if the drowsiness has stopped.
- Other common side effects are nausea, diarrhoea or constipation, dry mouth.



If you experience any side effects (except for drowsiness which is usually temporary), please reduce the dose back to your previous dose. However, if you are concerned about any possible side effects you should speak to your GP, Community Pharmacist or NHS 24 on **08454 24 24 24**.

Increasing the Dose

If after one month, you are not experiencing any benefit from this, you should see your GP to discuss increasing this to 60mg once a day, again usually taken at night.

Stopping Medication

If your GP, Community Pharmacist or NHS 24 decides that you should stop taking Duloxetine, you should reduce the dose to 30mg for at least 2 weeks before stopping, unless they advise otherwise. Some people have had nausea, vomiting, headache, anxiety, dizziness, pins and needles, tremor and poor sleep if they have stopped Duloxetine too quickly. Should you experience any of the symptoms while reducing this medicine, you should see your GP.



Remember!

- Don't run out of medicine.
- Ask for a repeat prescription before your medicine is finished.
- If you have any questions about this medicine please contact your GP, Community Pharmacist or NHS 24 for advice.

This leaflet is a summary of some information. However, you should still always read the manufacturers information which comes with your medication.

