

Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor (SNRI) Antidepressants

Medication*	Initial oral dose (mg)	Dosing Frequency	Formulation	Titration Dose (mg) and Schedule	Average Total per day (mg)	Common Side Effects	Medication Administration
venlafaxine XR (Effexor)	37.5	daily in am	XR (extended release) capsules	37.5 qweekly	150 Use lower doses of venlafaxine in renal and hepatic impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea • headache • insomnia • nervousness • sweating • hypertension at higher doses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not crush capsules or beads inside. • may open capsule and sprinkle on food, (check with pharmacist), then swallow immediately
duloxetine (Cymbalta)	30	daily to bid	Delayed release capsules	30 qweekly	60 Do not use duloxetine in patients with creatinine clearance less than 30 ml/min or any hepatic insufficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea • dizziness • sweating • constipation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as above
Other							

*Please consult with the product monograph for more detailed information.

1. Key Messages/Considerations :

- Start low and go slow;
- Strive for a good clinical trial - increase dose only until clinical effectiveness is achieved ;
- BP should be monitored for potential hypertension;

- Duloxetine may also be helpful in the treatment of certain chronic pain syndromes;
- Reassess the need for continued therapy.
- Withdraw gradually after prolonged use to avoid discontinuation syndrome;

2. **References and other medication information:**

- Canadian Consensus Conference on Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia (CCCDTD4), 2012, retrieved July 30th, 2013 online from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3516356/> .
- Clinical Handbook of Psychotropic Drugs, 18th Edition. (2009) Hogrefe and Huber.
- CPS - Compendium of Pharmaceutical and Specialities (2013).
- Lexicomp online drug information (www.online.lexi.com).
- P.I.E.C.E.S. Psychotropic Template (2009), retrieved online June 14th, 2013 from http://www.piecescanada.com/pdf/Psychotropic_Template_Jan09.pdf
- Stahl, Steven M (2007) Essential Psychopharmacology: The Prescriber's Guide. Cambridge University Press.
- Tool on Pharmacological Treatment of Behavioral Symptoms of Dementia in Long Term Care Facilities for Older Adults, based on: Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH) National Guidelines: The Assessment and Treatment of Mental Health Issues in Long Term Care Homes, retrieved online May 30th, 2013 from: http.