

An antidepressant

Venlafaxine (ven-lah-fax-een)


You should read this leaflet with your carer/care giver.



Venlafaxine:

- Is also called Efexor, Elaxine and Venlalic.
- Come as tablets or capsules.


- Venlafaxine is used for depression, anxiety and social anxiety.
- Venlafaxine is sometimes used for people who are distressed. There is no clear evidence that it improves someone's behaviour.



The label on your venlafaxine packet should tell you when and how much medicine to take.

Swallow your tablet or capsule with water,

If you forget to take your medicine, tell someone straight away.



You should carry on taking your medicine even if you feel better unless your doctor asks you to stop.

Drinking alcohol when taking venlafaxine could make you feel sleepy.

Some medicines do not work well together.

You should tell your doctor about any other medicines you are taking.

Side effects:

- Medicine can have some effects on your body that are not wanted.
- Not everyone taking a medicine will get them.
- Many will go away with time.
- Many are rare.

You might want to talk to your doctor or the pharmacist or your key worker if you have any side effect.

These are some (but NOT all) side effects of venlafaxine...



- Feeling sick or being sick
- Feeling more anxious or on edge
- Lose weight or may put on weight (check weight regularly)
- Problem with sleeping
- Having the 'runs' or needing the toilet a lot
- Dry mouth
- Headache
- Not feeling hungry
- Loss of interest in sex
- Irregular heartbeat (check ECG)



You must check ECG before and after starting the medicine.

Some side effects are more serious.

You should tell someone straight away if you have...

- Thoughts about harming or killing yourself
- Fit or seizure
- High mood or feel angry
- Red rashes
- Shaky or stiff
- High temperature



You should talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medicine.

Sometimes, if you stop taking your medicine, you may have:

- Flu-like symptoms
- Dizziness
- Anxiety or feel on edge
- Problem with sleeping
- Problem with memory
- Difficulty moving





This leaflet does not tell you everything about venlafaxine.

You can get more information from:

- your pharmacist, doctor, nurse or carer/ care giver
- check <http://www.choiceandmedication.org/cnwl/>
- NHS on 111
- medicine information helpline on 020 3317 5090.

This leaflet can be downloaded free of charge from:

<https://spectrom.wixsite.com/project/>

While preparing this leaflet we checked information in...

- The British National Formulary (www.bnf.org)
- Dulcan, M. K., & Ballard, R. (2015). Helping parents and teachers understand medications for behavioural and emotional problems: A resource book of medication information handouts. American Psychiatric Publishing, Washington DC, USA.

This leaflet is not designed for people with intellectual/learning disabilities to read on their own. Support (care) staff or care givers should go through the leaflet with the person who has intellectual disabilities.

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