

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

CYMBALTA 30 MG CAPSULE

USES:

Duloxetine is used to treat major depression and also used to relieve nerve pain (peripheral neuropathy) in diabetics. This medication works by restoring the balance of two kinds of natural substances (neurotransmitters known as serotonin and norepinephrine) in the brain, thereby improving mood and feelings of well-being.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:

HOW TO USE: Read the Medication Guide provided by your pharmacist before you start using duloxetine and each time you get a refill. If you have any questions regarding the information, consult your doctor or pharmacist. Take this medication by mouth; with or without food usually once or twice a day depending on the amount that you take; or as directed by your doctor. This medicine should not be crushed, chewed or mixed with food or liquid. Swallow it whole. Dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. Remember to use it at the same times each day. It is important to continue taking this medication even if you feel well. Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased. It may take between 1 to 4 weeks before the full benefit of this drug takes effect. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

SIDE EFFECTS:

See also the Warning section. Nausea, dry mouth, constipation, loss of appetite, fatigue, drowsiness, dizziness, increased sweating, blurred vision, rash, or itching may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: unusual or severe mental/mood changes (e.g., anxiety, mania, agitation), weight loss, change in sexual desire and ability, uncontrolled movements (tremor), difficulty urinating. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: stomach pain, black stools, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, easy bruising/bleeding, unusual bleeding, yellowing of eyes/skin, dark urine, seizures, fast heartbeat. Seek immediate medical attention if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: chest pain. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before taking duloxetine, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies. This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: severe kidney disease, glaucoma (uncontrolled narrow-angle). Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: history or family history of psychiatric disorders (e.g., bipolar/manic-depressive disorder), history or family history of suicide attempts, liver disease, kidney disease, stomach problems (e.g., bleeding or slow stomach emptying), drug or alcohol abuse, seizure disorder. This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Avoid alcoholic beverages. If you are pregnant, this medication should be used only when clearly needed during the first 6 months of pregnancy. Due to possible complications to an infant at birth, this medicine is not recommended for use during the last 3 months of pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. It is unknown if this medication passes into breast milk. Breast-feeding while taking this drug is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Certain medications taken with this product could result in serious, possibly fatal, drug interactions. Avoid taking drugs called MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, isocarboxazid, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, selegiline, tranylcypromine) with or within 2 weeks of starting duloxetine or at least 5 days after stopping it. This drug should also not be used with the following medication because very serious (possibly fatal) interactions may occur: thioridazine. If you are currently using any of these medications, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting duloxetine. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: cimetidine, ciprofloxacin, certain drugs used to treat abnormal heart rhythms (e.g., propafenone, flecainide, quinidine), certain other anti-depressants (e.g., SSRI's such as fluoxetine/ fluvoxamine/paroxetine, SSNRI's such as venlafaxine), lithium, other drugs which can cause bleeding/bruising (e.g., thrombolytic drugs such as TPA, anticoagulants such as heparin or warfarin, antiplatelet drugs including NSAIDs such as ibuprofen), St John's wort, tramadol, "triptan" migraine medication (e.g., sumatriptan), tryptophan. Low-dose aspirin (usually 81-325 mg per day) for heart attack or stroke prevention should be continued unless your doctor instructs you otherwise. Aspirin is similar to NSAID drugs, and can increase the risk of bleeding in combination with this medication (see above). Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you also take drugs that cause drowsiness such as: certain antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine), anti-anxiety drugs (e.g., diazepam), anti-seizure drugs (e.g., carbamazepine), medicine for sleep (e.g., sedatives), muscle relaxants, narcotic pain relievers (e.g., codeine), psychiatric medicines (e.g., phenothiazines such as chlorpromazine, or tricyclics such as amitriptyline), tranquilizers. Check all prescription and nonprescription medicine labels carefully (e.g., cough-and-cold products, pain relievers, fever reducers) for ingredients which may increase the risk of side effects. Ask your pharmacist about the safe use of those products. Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

NOTES:

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Do not share this medication with others. Psychiatric/medical checkups (and possibly laboratory and/or medical tests such as liver function tests, blood pressure) must be done periodically to monitor your progress and check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

MISSED DOSE:

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

STORAGE:

Store at room temperature at 77 degrees F (25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Brief storage between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) is permitted. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.