

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

EFFEXOR XR 150 MG CAPSULE SA

USES:

This medication is an antidepressant (serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor type) used in the treatment of depression and anxiety disorders (Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder). It works by restoring the balance of natural chemicals (neurotransmitters) 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 venlafaxine 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 once a day, exactly as prescribed. Take this medication with food. Swallow the medication whole. Do not crush, break, chew, or place the capsule in water. If you have difficulty swallowing this medication whole, the capsule may be opened and the contents sprinkled onto a spoonful of applesauce and taken as directed. Swallow the mixture immediately. Do not chew the food/medication mixture. Follow each dose with a glass of water to wash the medication down. During the first few days your doctor may gradually increase your dose to allow your body to adjust to the medication. Do not take the medication more often or increase your dose without consulting your doctor. Your condition will not improve any faster but the risk of serious side effects will be increased if you do not follow the directions. Do not stop taking this drug suddenly without your doctor's approval. Your dose may need to be gradually reduced to prevent adverse effects. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

SIDE EFFECTS:

See also the Warning section. This medication may initially cause dizziness and nausea as your body adjusts to the medication. Other side effects reported include trouble sleeping, nervousness, sweating, loss of appetite, weight loss, dry mouth, tremor, blurred vision, constipation, drowsiness, change in sexual ability, or anxiety. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor 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. Notify your doctor immediately if you develop any of these serious effects: rapid or irregular heartbeat, chest pain, severe headache, painful or difficult urination, muscle cramping, unusual or severe mental/mood changes (e.g., agitation), uncontrolled movements, seizures. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: black stools, "coffee ground" vomit, easy bruising/bleeding. An allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include: rash, itching, swelling, dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before taking venlafaxine, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies. Tell your doctor 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, kidney disease, liver disease, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, seizures, glaucoma. This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy and may affect judgment, thinking, or your physical reactions; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Avoid alcoholic beverages. Elderly persons may be more sensitive to the effects of this medication. Use with caution. Caution is advised when using this drug in children because it may affect weight, growth rate, and final height. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details. This medication should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. If this medication is used during the last 3 months of pregnancy, infrequently your newborn may develop symptoms including feeding or breathing difficulties, seizures, muscle stiffness, jitteriness, or constant crying. However, do not stop taking this medication unless your doctor directs you to do so. Report any such symptoms to your doctor promptly. It is not known if this medication appears in breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: MAO inhibitors (e.g., tranylcypromine, phenelzine, isocarboxazid, selegiline, linezolid, furazolidone). If you are currently using or have recently stopped taking an MAO inhibitor within the last 14 days, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting venlafaxine. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of any prescription and nonprescription products you may use, especially of: cimetidine, 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), other drugs that increase serotonin effects (e.g., triptans such as sumatriptan, SSRI antidepressants such as fluoxetine, St John's wort, lithium, tramadol, other SSNRI antidepressants such as duloxetine), sedatives, tryptophan, narcotic pain relievers (e.g., codeine, morphine), seizure medication, medicine for weight control. 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. Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

NOTES:

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

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MISSED DOSE:

Try to take each dose at the scheduled time. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered; do not take it if it is near the time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE:

Store this medication at room temperature between 68 and 77 degrees F (20 and 25 degrees C) away from heat and light. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep this and all medications out of the reach of children and pets.