## Facts about lurasidone HCL (Latuda)

Generic name: lurasidone HCL Brand name: Latuda

Dose forms and strengths: Tablet 20 mg, 40 mg, 60 mg, 80 mg, 120 mg

**Therapeutic category:** Atypical antipsychotic, exact mechanism of action unknown; antagonizes dopamine D2 receptors, serotonin 5-HT2A receptors, others

**FDA approval:** Adolescent patients (13 to 17 years) with Schizophrenia (approved in January, 2017); Adult patients with Schizophrenia; Adult patients with Major Depressive episodes associated with Bipolar I Disorder

**Dosing:** For adolescent patients with schizophrenia, the recommended starting dose of lurasidone is 40 mg once daily. Initial dose titration is not required. Lurasidone has been shown to be effective in a dose range of 40 mg per day to 80 mg per day in this population. The maximum recommended dose is 80 mg per day in adolescent patients, and 160mg in adult patients.

**Notes:** Take with food (at least 350 kcalories). Grapefruit and grapefruit juice should be avoided in patients taking lurasidone since these may inhibit CYP3A4 and alter LATUDA concentrations. Swallow tablet whole.

**Common adverse reactions** (≥5% incidence and at least twice the rate of placebo): Adolescent patients (13 to 17 years) with schizophrenia: somnolence, nausea, extra-pyramidal symptoms (non-akathisia), vomiting, and rhinorrhea/rhinitis.

Rare but serious adverse reactions: Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS), Tardive Dyskinesia (TD), Metabolic Changes (*Hyperglycemia and Diabetes Mellitus, Dyslipidemia, Weight Gain*), Body Temperature Regulation difficulties, Hyperprolactinemia, Orthostatic Hypotension and Syncope, Seizures, Leukopenia, Neutropenia, and Agranulocytosis

**Discontinuation reactions:** Adverse reactions after lurasidone discontinuation can include anger, anxiety, depression, body aches, nausea, sweating, headaches, racing thoughts, insomnia, dizziness, tremors, and concentration difficulties, among other things. A gradual taper is recommended rather than abrupt discontinuation of this medication.

**Lurasidone is contraindicated in combination with:** Strong CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., Ketoconazole); Strong CYP3A4 inducers (e.g., Rifampin)

**Cautions:** Although not classified as an anti-depressant when used in adolescent patients. Lurasidone carries a Black Box warning regarding possible increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults with major depressive or other psychiatric disorders. Lurasidone also carries a Black Box warning regarding Dementia-Related Psychosis, relating to increased mortality risk in elderly dementia patients prescribed conventional or atypical antipsychotics.