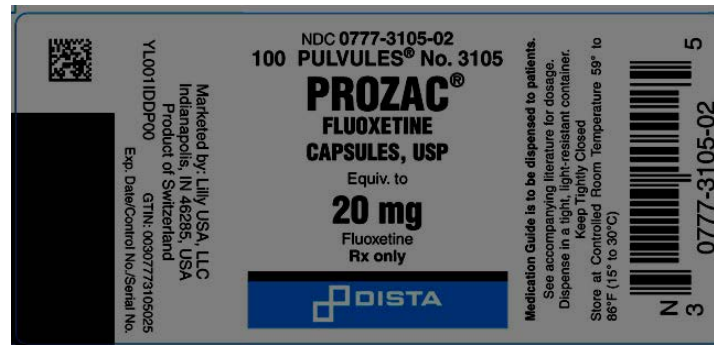


## Facts about fluoxetine (Prozac)



**Generic Name:** fluoxetine HCL **Brand Name:** Prozac (long-acting form of fluoxetine)

FDA indication for treatment of MDD in youth ages 8-18

**Dose forms/Strengths:** 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg capsules. There is a 90 mg tab (which should not be cut or crushed) which is dosed q weekly but not typically used in children or adolescents.

**Dosing:** It is given once daily, usually in the early morning, and has peak plasma levels about 6-8 hours after ingestion. Average half-life is about 4-6 days. Steady state blood levels are usually achieved within four to six weeks.

**Therapeutic category:**

- fluoxetine HCL is an SSRI agent, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.
- fluoxetine HCL can be used as monotherapy in treating depression, but it is often used in combination with cognitive behavioral therapy to facilitate depression remission.

**Common adverse reactions/Side effects:** It has a moderate side effect profile, which includes dry mouth, weight gain, insomnia, alopecia, dizziness, drowsiness, nervousness, decreased sex drive, and erectile dysfunction. Most are mild and transient.

**Rare but serious adverse reactions:** It carries a black box label indicating the risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors. There's also the risk of serotonin syndrome, mania, and dangerously low levels of salt.

**Additional Notes:**

- There is no known potential for abuse.
- Besides its use in depression, it has been used in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder, bulimia nervosa, and panic disorder.
- It has also been used to reduce the depressive symptoms in Bipolar I in combination of olanzapine preferably in a fixed dose combination form (Symbyax).