

Fluvoxamine

Availability

- Luvox (brand name) or fluvoxamine (generic)
- Luvox CR (no generic for CR formulation)

Classified as a SRI, serotonin reuptake inhibitor

- boosts serotonin by blocking the reuptake pump, thereby increasing neurotransmission
- binds to sigma 1-receptors (see below)

FDA approval for OCD

- As part of the SRI class, it is also utilized for other depressive and anxiety disorders

What to expect?

- As with other medications, side effects tend to show up early and are similar to other SRIs
 - GI distress (stomach aches, diarrhea or constipation, nausea, decreased appetite)
 - Sexual dysfunction
 - Headaches
 - Sedation due to sigma-1 antagonism
 - “Black Box” warning as with all antidepressants:
 - May increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults (18 to 24 years of age) with major depressive disorder and other psychiatric disorders
- Therapeutic effects typically occur between 2-4 weeks
 - If no benefit at 4 weeks, may need to consider increasing dose
 - Therapeutic range at doses of 100mg to 300mg/day

How to start medication?

- Immediate-release formulation, Luvox or fluvoxamine:
 - Initial dose of 50mg/day
 - Can increase to 100mg/day after 1 week based on clinical picture/severity
 - Reassess benefits at 4 weeks and can continue to increase by increments of 50mg/day/week until max dose of 300mg is reached
- Controlled-release formulation:
 - Initial dose of 100mg/day
 - Can increase by increments of 50mg/day/week until max dose of 300mg is reached
- Dosing tips/tricks:
 - For IR formulation, may split doses >100mg/day into two doses to improve tolerability
 - Can cut IR formulation tablets
 - CR formulation comes as a capsule and cannot be split, chewed, crushed

What about for kids?

- FDA-approved for children ages 8-17 years old for OCD
- IR formulation is FDA-approved, but CR formulation is not
- Start at 25mg/day and increase in increments of 25mg/day/week until desired benefit or max dose is reached
- Max dose of 200mg/day in children ages 8-11 years old
- Max dose of 300mg/day in adolescents ages 12-17 years old

Clinical pearls:

- IR and CR formulations are interchangeable mg to mg
- Less sedation with CR formulation

References include Stahl's Prescriber's Guide and Lexicomp