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2. Fluvoxamine

Fluvoxamine

Generic name: fluvoxamine [*floo-VOX-a-meen*]**Brand names:** [Luvox](#), [Luvox CR](#)**Dosage forms:** oral capsule, extended release (100 mg; 150 mg), oral tablet (100 mg; 25 mg; 50 mg)**Drug class:** [Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Oct 30, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is fluvoxamine?

Fluvoxamine is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI).

Fluvoxamine is used to treat symptoms of [obsessive compulsive disorder](#) (OCD) in adults and children at least 8 years old.

Fluvoxamine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Fluvoxamine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction:** skin rash, blisters, or hives; fever, joint pain; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Tell your doctor right away if you have new or sudden changes in mood or behavior, including new or worse depression or anxiety, [panic attacks](#), trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, more active or talkative, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Call your doctor at once if you have;

- anxiety, racing thoughts, risk-taking behavior, sleep problems (insomnia), feelings of extreme happiness or irritability;
- blurred vision, eye pain or redness, seeing halos around lights;
- a seizure;
- changes in weight or appetite;
- easy bruising or unusual bleeding; or
- **low blood sodium**--headache, confusion, problems with thinking or memory, weakness, feeling unsteady.

Seek medical attention right away if you have symptoms of serotonin syndrome, such as: agitation, hallucinations, fever, sweating, shivering, [fast heart rate](#), muscle stiffness, twitching, loss of coordination, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Fluvoxamine can affect growth in children. Your child's height and weight should be checked often.

Common side effects of fluvoxamine may include:

- drowsiness, dizziness, weakness;
- anxiety, depression, agitation, trouble sleeping;
- shaking, increased muscle movements;
- [upset stomach](#), gas, loss of appetite;
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea;
- dry mouth, yawning, sore throat;
- muscle pain;
- sweating, rash;
- heavy menstrual periods; or
- sexual problems.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Fluvoxamine side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

People with depression or mental illness may have thoughts about suicide. Some young people may have increased suicidal thoughts when first starting a medicine to treat depression. **Tell your doctor right away if you have any sudden changes in mood or behavior, or thoughts about suicide.**

Do not stop using fluvoxamine without first asking your doctor.

Before taking this medicine

You should not take fluvoxamine if you are allergic to it.

Do not use fluvoxamine within 14 days before or 14 days after you have taken an MAO inhibitor. A dangerous [drug interaction](#) could occur. MAO inhibitors include [isocarboxazid](#), linezolid, [methylene blue](#) injection, phenelzine, [tranylcypromine](#), and others.

Some drugs should not be used with fluvoxamine. Your treatment plan may change if you also use:

- alosetron;
- ramelteon;
- thioridazine; or
- tizanidine.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [bipolar disorder](#) ([manic depression](#));
- a seizure;
- glaucoma;
- sexual problems;
- liver or kidney disease;
- [heart disease](#), [high blood pressure](#), or a stroke;
- bleeding problems; or
- low levels of sodium in your blood (an electrolyte imbalance).

People with depression or mental illness may have thoughts about suicide. Some young people may have increased

suicidal thoughts when first starting a medicine to treat depression. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Your family or caregivers should also watch for sudden changes in your behavior.

Tell your doctor if you also use stimulant medicine, opioid medicine, [herbal products](#), or medicine for depression, mental illness, [Parkinson's disease](#), migraine headaches, serious infections, or prevention of nausea and vomiting. **An interaction with fluvoxamine could cause a serious condition called serotonin syndrome.**

Taking fluvoxamine during pregnancy could harm the baby, but stopping the medicine may not be safe for you. **Do not start or stop fluvoxamine without asking your doctor.**

Do not breastfeed.

How should I take fluvoxamine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Take fluvoxamine at bedtime, with or without food.

Swallow the capsule whole and do not crush, chew, break, or open it.

Tell your doctor if you have any changes in sexual function, such as loss of interest in sex, trouble having an orgasm, or (in men) problems with erections or ejaculation. Some sexual problems can be treated.

Do not stop using fluvoxamine suddenly, or you could have unpleasant symptoms (such as agitation, confusion, tingling or electric shock feelings). Ask your doctor before stopping the medicine.

Store tightly closed at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.

Fluvoxamine dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder:

Initial immediate-release tablet dose: 50 mg orally once a day at bedtime

Initial extended-release capsule dose: 100 mg orally once a day at bedtime

Maintenance dose: 100 to 300 mg orally per day

Maximum dose: 300 mg/day

Comments:

-The dose may be increased in 50 mg increments every 4 to 7 days, as tolerated, until maximum therapeutic benefit is achieved.

-A total daily dose of more than 100 mg should be given in two divided doses. If the doses are not equal, the larger dose should be given at bedtime.

Use: Treatment of obsessions and compulsions in patients with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), as defined in DSM-III-R or DSM-IV

Usual Pediatric Dose for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder:

8 to 11 years:

- Initial dose: 25 mg orally once a day at bedtime
- Maintenance dose: 25 to 200 mg orally per day
- Maximum dose: 200 mg/day

11 to 17 years:

- Initial dose: 25 mg orally once a day at bedtime
- Maintenance dose: 25 to 300 mg orally per day
- Maximum dose: 300 mg/day

Comments:

The dose may be increased in 25 mg increments every 4 to 7 days, as tolerated, up to a maximum daily dose.

-Total daily doses of more than 50 mg should be given in two divided doses. If the two divided doses are not equal, the larger dose should be given at bedtime.

-Lower doses may be effective in female versus male patients.

Use: Treatment of obsessions and compulsions in patients with OCD, as defined in DSM-III-R or DSM-IV

 [Detailed Fluvoxamine dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose may cause vomiting, diarrhea, breathing problems, slow heartbeats, or seizure.

What should I avoid while taking fluvoxamine?

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects.

Ask your doctor before taking a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, Advil, Aleve, Motrin, and others. Using an NSAID with fluvoxamine may cause you to bruise or bleed easily.

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how fluvoxamine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

What other drugs will affect fluvoxamine?

Using fluvoxamine with other drugs that make you drowsy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can affect fluvoxamine, especially:

- methadone, mexiletine, [St. John's wort](#), theophylline, tramadol;
- a benzodiazepine sedative like Valium, Klonopin, or Xanax;

- a blood thinner (warfarin, Coumadin, Jantoven);
- a diuretic or "water pill";
- a "triptan" [migraine headache](#) medicine, such as Imitrex or Maxalt; or
- medicine to treat anxiety, mood disorders, thought disorders, or mental illness (such as clozapine, lithium, [antidepressants](#), or [antipsychotics](#)).

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect fluvoxamine. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Fluvoxamine drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does fluvoxamine interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

fluvoxamine

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Patient resources

- [Fluvoxamine advanced reading](#)
- [Fluvoxamine Tablets](#)
- [Fluvoxamine Extended-Release Capsules](#)

Other brands

[Luvox](#), [Luvox CR](#)

Professional resources

- [Fluvoxamine monograph](#)
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Other brands

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Related treatment guides

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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation



Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History



Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

6.7 / 10

[382 Reviews](#)

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