

Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI-Antidepressants)

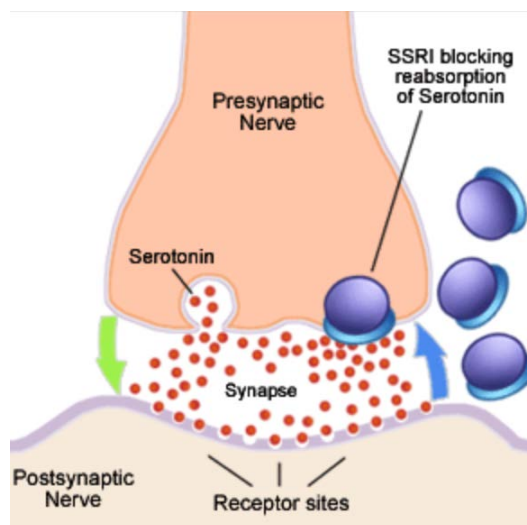
Dementia Drug Education Handout



SSRI Antidepressants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citalopram (Celexa®) • Escitalopram (Lexapro®) • Fluoxetine (Prozac®) • Paroxetine (Paxil®, Paxil® CR) • Sertraline (Zoloft®)
Why are these drugs used?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To treat behavioral symptoms such as impulsive aggressive behaviors, anxiety, depression and obsessive compulsive behavior associated with dementia
Typical dosing:	<p>Based on clinical situation, your provider may choose to start at lower dose</p> <p>Citalopram (Celexa®):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting dose: 20mg once daily. • Maximum dose: 20 mg in patients 60 years old or older <p>Escitalopram (Lexapro®):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting dose: 10 mg daily. • May increase to dose after one week if no significant side effects. • Maximum dose of 20mg once daily <p>Fluoxetine (Prozac®):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting dose: 10 mg daily • May increase daily dose by 10 mg or 20 mg every several weeks if no significant side effects. • Maximum dose: 80 mg daily a day. <p>Paroxetine (Paxil®, Paxil® CR, Pexeva®):</p> <p><u>Paxil® Immediate Release (IR)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting dose: 10 mg daily for Paxil®. • May increase 10 mg/day every week if no significant side effects. • Maximum dose: 40 mg daily. <p><u>Paxil® CR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting dose: 12.5 mg daily • May increase by 12.5 mg/day every week if no significant side effects. • Maximum dose: 50 mg daily. <p>Sertraline (Zoloft®):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting dose: 50 mg once daily. • May increase daily dose weekly. • Maximum daily dose: 200 mg.

Available Formulations & Estimated Cost:	Citalopram (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 10 mg, 20 mg, and 40 mg tablets. Solution (10 mg/5 mL) is also available. <u>Cost 100 day supply:</u> \$117 - \$630		
	Escitalopram (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg tablets. Solution (5 mg/5 mL) is also available. <u>Cost 100 day supply:</u> \$190 - \$772		
	Fluoxetine (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> <i>Immediate Release:</i> 10 mg, 20 mg, and 40 mg capsules. 10 mg, 20 mg, 60 mg tablets. Solution (20 mg/5 mL) also available. <i>Extended Release:</i> 90 mg capsule. <u>Cost 30 day supply:</u> \$82 - \$328		
	Paroxetine (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> <i>Paxil® IR:</i> 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg, and 40 mg tablets & 7.5 mg capusule. Solution (10 mg/5 mL) is also available. <i>Paxil® CR:</i> 12.5 mg, 25 mg, and 37.5 mg tablets <u>Cost 30 day supply:</u> \$79 - \$300		
	Sertraline (brand & generic): <u>Strengths:</u> 25 mg, 50 mg, & 100 mg tablets. Solution (20 mg/mL) is also available. <u>Cost 30 day supply:</u> \$65 - \$208		
Contraindications & Precautions for this drug:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A prior negative response to quetiapine. May include swelling, rash, and hives.• Use with tranylcypromine, phenelzine, or selegiline.		
Common Side Effects:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trouble sleeping• Headache• Dizziness• Shakiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fatigue• Drowsiness• Sweating a lot• Loss of appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dry mouth• Diarrhea or• Constipation

Managing this Medication:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take this medication as prescribed at the same time every morning to avoid troubled sleeping. 2. The starting dose is often low followed by a slow increase after 1 week. 3a. Take sertraline on an empty stomach. 3b. Take all other SSRI with food to avoid stomach upset. 4. Inform your health-care provider if you experience: very bad dizziness, change in behaviour, seizures, chest pain, not able to control bladder, very bad headache, large change in weight, lowered interest in sex, or other side effects. 5. It may take 3-8 weeks (or more) for this medication to take full effect, but may experience reduction in anxiety and improvement in behavior sooner. 6. Do not stop taking this medication suddenly as it may cause withdrawal effects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Withdrawal symptoms include:</i> dizziness, stomach upset, tiredness, chills and muscle pains. Please contact your provider if you experience any of these symptoms.
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References:

1. Lexicomp – sertraline, citalopram, escitalopram, paroxetine, fluoxetine 2014
2. UpToDate - SSRI 2014
3. Red Book Average Wholesale Price of Drugs 2013
4. Kirby Lee, PharmD, MA, MAS and Ron Finley, RPh, UCSF Memory and Aging Center