

Duloxetine

[Doo-LOX-e-teen]
Cymbalta®

<http://Rheuminfo.com>
your rheumatology resource

How to use this medication

What is it



Duloxetine is a medication used to treat different types of pain such as neuropathic pain and fibromyalgia.

Take it once a day



Duloxetine is taken once a day.

Capsules



Duloxetine comes in different strength capsules. A usual starting dose is 30 to 60 mg once a day.

What you need to do

Get occasional blood tests



Have your blood tested occasionally. This is important to make sure duloxetine isn't irritating your liver.

Limit alcohol



Drinking alcohol while taking duloxetine can irritate your liver. It is best to limit the amount of alcohol you drink. Discuss with your doctor.

Side effects & important facts

Nausea & constipation



Duloxetine can cause pain in the stomach, nausea, or vomiting. It can also cause a dry mouth and constipation.

Dizziness & confusion



Duloxetine can make you feel dizzy. It can rarely cause agitation or confusion.

Blurry vision



Duloxetine can cause blurry vision. Let your doctor know if you have glaucoma before starting duloxetine.

Blood pressure



Duloxetine can rarely cause an increase in your blood pressure. Your doctor will monitor this. Tell your doctor if you have high blood pressure.

Increased sweating



Duloxetine can rarely cause an abnormal increase in sweating.

Headache



Duloxetine can rarely cause a headache.

Bladder problems



Duloxetine can cause urine retention and difficulty voiding.

Pregnancy & breastfeeding



Duloxetine has not been studied in pregnancy. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

When should I call my doctor

Please call if you need to stop



- If you feel sick and want to stop
- If you are concerned about any side effects
- If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

Other reasons to call your doctor:



Dizziness, confusion, or agitation



Blurry vision



Increased blood pressure



Severe stomach pain



If you become pregnant

Other important information

Stopping duloxetine slowly



It is best to stop duloxetine slowly. The dose should be reduced over a week or two.