

What is most important to remember?

- It may take a few weeks for you to see the benefits of taking this medicine
- Do not suddenly stop taking escitalopram unless directed to do so by your doctor
- Seek help from a doctor or pharmacist if you have thoughts of suicide or hurting yourself
- Contact your prescriber If you experience any itching or rash, or swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- Do not start any new medications, over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies without talking to your doctor
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away

If you have questions:

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for more information about escitalopram (Lexapro®).

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Escitalopram (Lexapro®): Important Patient Information



MEDICINE *of the HIGHEST ORDER*



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What does escitalopram (Lexapro®) do?

- It belongs to a class of medications called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). It works by increasing the amount of serotonin, a natural substance in the brain that helps maintain mental balance
- It is used to treat low mood (depression) and anxiety
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with your doctor

How should escitalopram (Lexapro®) be used?

- Use this medicine as directed by your doctor
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses
- Take with or without food. If it causes upset stomach, take with food

Who should know I am taking escitalopram (Lexapro®)?

- Keep a list of all your medicines (prescription, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) and give it to your healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, or physician assistant)

What side effects could occur with escitalopram (Lexapro®)?

- Nervous, excitable, not able to sleep
- Headache
- Upset stomach, diarrhea (loose stools), constipation (hard stool), not hungry, dry mouth
- Feeling lightheaded, sleepy, or dizzy
- Change in sex ability or interest in sex

What should I do if I forget to take a dose?

- Take your dose as soon as you think about it
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal dose time
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses

Are there any interactions with other drugs that I need to worry about?

- There are many drug interactions that may increase your risk of side effects
- Do not start new prescription, over-the-counter medicines, or herbal and dietary supplements without telling your doctor

If you have any of the following side effects, call your doctor or visit the emergency room immediately:

- If you are planning to hurt yourself
- Change in thinking clearly
- Very bad dizziness or passing out
- Very upset stomach or throwing up
- Very loose stools
- Any bruising or bleeding
- Big change in balance
- Trouble breathing
- Itching or rash
- Swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat
- Twitching, agitation, sweating a lot, and muscle stiffness
- Very excitable and nervous
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal

What are some things that I need to be aware of when taking escitalopram (Lexapro®)?

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to escitalopram, any other medicines, foods, or substances
- It may take a few weeks for you to see the benefits of taking this medicine. Do not suddenly stop taking escitalopram unless directed to do so by your doctor
- Do not take escitalopram if you have taken other drugs for depression such as MOAIs (phenelzine, tranylcypromine) or drugs for Parkinson's disease (selegiline or rasagiline) in the last 14 days. Taking those drugs with escitalopram can cause dangerous high blood pressure. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist
- Call your doctor right away if you have dizziness, very bad headache, agitation, hallucinations, fever, fast heartbeat, a heartbeat that does not feel normal, flushing, seizures, shakiness, sweating a lot, change in balance, change in thinking clearly with logic, very bad upset stomach and throwing up, or very bad loose stools. These are signs of a rare but serious problem called serotonin syndrome. The risk may be greater if you take escitalopram with certain other medicines. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to get pregnant, or are breastfeeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this medication
- This medicine may raise your chance of bleeding. Talk with your doctor if you are taking aspirin or blood thinners
- Escitalopram may make you drowsy and affect your judgment and thinking. Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this medicine affects you
- Avoid drinking alcohol (includes wine, beer, and liquor)
- If you are 65 or older, use this medicine with care. You may have more side effects
- Store in a cool, dry place. Keep out of the reach of children and pets