

Parker & Waichman, LLP Attorneys at Law

Zoloft Information Guide

Zoloft
(sertraline HCl)

Manufacturer:
Pfizer

Generic Name:
Sertaline

Date Approved:
December 1991

Status:
On the market

Approved Uses
Depression
Anxiety
Panic Attacks
OCD

Serious Side Effects
Suicide
Violence

Related Topics
Celexa
Cymbalta
Effexor
Lexapro
Luvox
Paxil
Remeron

The Case Against Zoloft:

The FDA has recently urged the makers of Zoloft and other SSRI antidepressants to add a warning about suicidal behavior. The FDA stated that patients using Zoloft and other antidepressants should be watched closely for suicidal tendencies.

The FDA advisory panel suggested the new warnings after an emotional hearing with testimony from the parents of children and teenagers who attempted suicide or took their own lives after starting antidepressants.

Zoloft belongs to a newer class of antidepressants called SSRIs or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. A British study last year found an increase in suicide attempts among children taking antidepressants versus those taking sugar pills.

The expanded wordings on labels advise health-care providers to "carefully monitor patients receiving antidepressants for possible worsening of depression or suicidality, especially at the beginning of therapy or when the dose either decreases or increases."

The U.S. surgeon general estimates there are 30,000 suicides every year in the United States. According to researchers with Columbia University, 10 percent of all youth suffer from depression, and 1,883 children ages 10 to 19 years old killed themselves in 2001.

If you or a loved one has been injured by Zoloft, Parker & Waichman, LLP will evaluate your case for free. [Click here for a free, no obligation, case evaluation.](#)

Zoloft (Sertaline)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Sertraline hydrochloride (Zoloft®, Lustral®, Apo-Sertral®, Asentra®, Gladem®, Serlift®, Stimuloton®, Xydep®, Serlain®) is an orally administered antidepressant of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) type.

Uses

Sertraline is used medically mainly to treat the symptoms of depression and anxiety. It has also been prescribed for the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, panic disorder, and bipolar disorder. It was first approved by the FDA in 1991. The patent for this brand-name drug expired in December 2005.

Side effects

Sertraline can have a number of adverse effects, including insomnia, asthenia, gastrointestinal complaints, tremors, confusion, dizziness, anorgasmia, and decreased libido; it can induce mania or hypomania in around 0.5% of patients. It has also been known to cause minor weight loss. Sertraline also has dopamine reuptake properties at high doses. It is contraindicated in individuals taking MAOIs or undergoing electroconvulsive therapy.

Forms and dosages

Sertraline is manufactured by Pfizer and sold as Zoloft in the United States as small green 25 mg tablets, blue 50 mg tablets, and orange 100 mg tablets (Generic 100mg sertraline tablets are yellow), each of which is scored to allow easy halving. In Australia, only the 50 mg and 100 mg strengths are available, both as white tablets. Sertraline is an odorless, white, sparingly soluble crystalline solid. The minimum effective dose is 50 mg per day, but lower doses may be used in the initial weeks of treatment to acclimate the patient's body, especially the liver, to the drug and to minimize the severity of any side effects. Patients who do not experience relief of symptoms at 50 mg a day may have their dose increased, up to 200 mg a day.

Precautions

Because of its metabolism, liver impairment can affect the elimination of this drug from the body. If someone with liver impairment is treated with sertraline, lower or less frequent dosage should be used. Similarly, patients should limit their alcohol intake while on sertraline (or any antidepressant). Because the liver is doubly taxed with processing both substances (in addition to any other drugs the patient may be taking), alcohol remains in the bloodstream longer, so the effects of alcohol may be more strongly and quickly felt by people taking sertraline or other antidepressants.

Controversy

In June 2003, Britain banned the use of sertraline for children under 18 after studies showed a link to increasing suicidal rates. Similar concern has prevailed in the United States, where only the anti-depressant fluoxetine (another SSRI) is officially endorsed by the FDA for the treatment of depression in minors. However, because the antidepressant-suicide link is correlational, scientists do not know whether the increased suicide risk for people taking antidepressants occurs because the drugs make people suicidal, whether suicide occurs because the drugs un-depress the people enough to motivate the energy required to commit suicide (a popular theory), or because of a third, unknown factor.

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