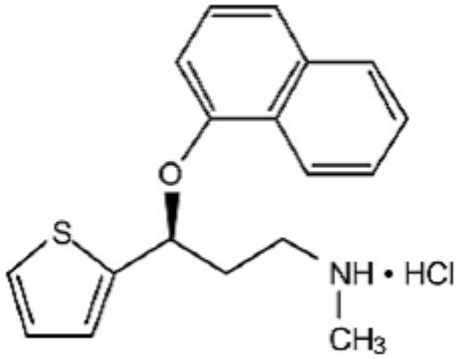
duloxetine



Generic name: duloxetine
Brand name: Cymbalta®
Dose Forms and strengths: 20mg, 30mg, and 60mg delayed-release capsules
Therapeutic Category: Serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor

FDA approval: On October 16, 2014, duloxetine was approved for generalized anxiety disorder in pediatric patients ages 7-17 years. This was based on a 10-week, placebo-controlled trial involving 272 patients in this age range. Duloxetine demonstrated superiority over placebo as measured by improvement in the Pediatric Anxiety Rating Scale for GAD severity score.

Dosing: Initiate duloxetine at a dose of 30 mg once daily for 2 weeks before considering an increase to 60 mg. The recommended dose range is 30 to 60 mg once daily. Some patients may benefit from doses above 60 mg daily. In these cases, increase the dose in 30-mg increments. The maximum dose studied is 120 mg daily.

Notes: Swallow duloxetine whole. Do not crush or chew. Do not sprinkle the capsule or mix with liquids.

Adverse reactions: The most common (≥5% and twice placebo) adverse reactions observed in pediatric clinical trials include nausea, diarrhea, decreased weight, and dizziness.

Discontinuation reactions: Adverse reactions after duloxetine discontinuation include dizziness, headache, nausea, diarrhea, paresthesia, irritability, emesis, insomnia, anxiety, hyperhidrosis, and fatigue. A gradual taper is recommended over abrupt discontinuation.

Cautions: Similar to other antidepressants, duloxetine has a black-box warning about suicidal thoughts and behaviors in children, adolescents, and young adults.