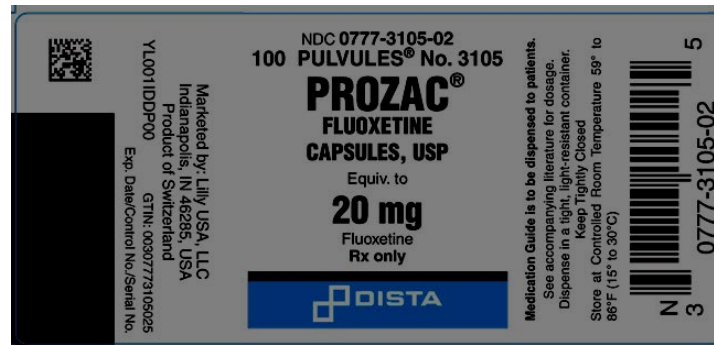


Facts about fluoxetine (Prozac)



Generic Name: Fluoxetine HCL **Brand Name:** Prozac (long-acting form of fluoxetine)

FDA indication for treatment of MDD in youth ages 8-18

Dose forms/Strengths: 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg capsules. There is a 90 mg tab (which should not be cut or crushed) which is dosed q weekly but not typically used in children or adolescents.

Dosing: It is given once daily, usually in the early morning, and has peak plasma levels about 6-8 hours after ingestion. Average half-life is about 4-6 days. Steady state blood levels are usually achieved within four to six weeks.

Therapeutic category:

- Fluoxetine HCL is an SSRI agent, a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor.
- Fluoxetine HCL can be used as monotherapy in treating depression, but it is often used in combination with cognitive behavioral therapy to facilitate depression remission.

Common adverse reactions/Side effects: It has a moderate side effect profile, which includes dry mouth, weight gain, insomnia, alopecia, dizziness, drowsiness, nervousness, decreased sex drive, and erectile dysfunction. Most are mild and transient.

Rare but serious adverse reactions: It carries a black box label indicating the risk for suicidal thoughts and behaviors. There's also the risk of serotonin syndrome, mania, and dangerously low levels of salt.

Additional Notes:

- There is no known potential for abuse.
- Besides its use in depression, it has been used in the treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder, bulimia nervosa, and panic disorder.
- It has also been used to reduce the depressive symptoms in Bipolar I in combination of olanzapine preferably in a fixed dose combination form (Symbyax).