

What is this medicine for?

This medicine belongs to a group of medication called antidepressants.

It is used to treat symptoms of low mood such as sad feelings, feelings of hopelessness or worthlessness, feeling bad about yourself, suicidal thoughts, poor sleep, energy or appetite.

The medicine may also be used for other conditions, check with your doctor.

Before using this medicine:

Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had bipolar disorder or mania (abnormally high or excited mood, or excessive activity and energy); dementia; kidney impairment; liver impairment or if you are taking other medications known to affect the liver; or if you are taking Fluvoxamine (an antidepressant) or Ciprofloxacin (an antibiotic).

FOR WOMEN: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.

How to use this medicine?

Follow the directions on your medicine label and take the medicine exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor. This medication is usually taken at bedtime with or without food.

This medicine must be taken regularly for a few weeks before your symptoms of low mood gradually improve.

Once these symptoms are under control, you should continue taking this medication regularly to prevent the return of your depressive symptoms. Do check with your doctor on the appropriate length of treatment you need. Do not stop taking it without the advice of your doctor even if you feel better.

Precautions while taking this medicine:

- This medicine may impair your ability to perform skilled tasks such as driving and operating machinery.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medicine as it can worsen symptoms of low mood.
- Agomelatine may cause increased levels of liver enzymes in the blood. Therefore, keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory. Your doctor will order routine liver function monitoring tests during your treatment.
- Your mood may change in unexpected ways especially at the beginning (first few weeks) of treatment and during dose changes. Contact your doctor immediately if you experience new or worsening thoughts of hopelessness or of harming yourself, or other changes in mood and behaviour. Be sure that your family or caregiver knows which symptoms may be serious so they can call the doctor if you are unable to seek treatment on your own.
- When you take this medicine with some other medicines, it may affect how they work. Be sure that you tell all doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other health care providers who treat you about all medicines and natural remedies you are taking.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is more than half way between the doses, skip the missed dose and take your medicine at the usual time.

Do not take two doses at the same time to make up for a missed one.

Possible Side Effects

Like all medications, this medication may also cause some POSSIBLE side effects in some people. Everyone responds differently to medications; so not everyone experiences any or all of them.

COMMON (Generally affect up to 10% of patients)

Most of these side effects below will get better or go away completely with continued medication taking as your body gets used to this medication. Contact your doctor or pharmacist should they become too bothersome to you.

- ~ Nausea or gastric discomfort (Can be reduced by taking with a meal or snack)
- ~ Headache
- ~ Backache
- ~ Drowsiness
- ~ Tiredness
- ~ Difficulty sleeping
- ~ Diarrhoea
- ~ Constipation
- ~ Dizziness or light-headedness
- ~ Nervousness, increased sweating (mostly occurring during the initial period of starting medications; gets better with continued taking)

FOR URGENT ATTENTION

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following:

- ~ Allergic reaction: Skin rash, itching, swelling or difficulty breathing
- ~ Feelings of intense agitation or anxiety, restlessness or inability to sit still
- ~ Talking, feeling, and acting with excitement that you cannot control
- ~ Yellowing of eyes or skin, severe stomach pain and vomiting that does not go away
- ~ Severe weakness or dizziness
- ~ Blurred or double vision
- ~ Thoughts about harming or yourself

If you have any concerns about your medications or if you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, please consult with your doctor or pharmacist.

Where should I store the medicine?

Store this medicine at room temperature, away from direct light, heat and moisture (not in the bathroom) and out of reach of children.

Throw away any medication that is expired or no longer needed.

Do not share the medicine with other people.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information or if you have any questions.



Patient Information Leaflet on

AGOMELATINE

Institute of Mental Health

Pharmacy Department
10 Buangkok View
Singapore 539747

For medication enquiries: (during office hours)

IMH Clinic B/ Sayang Wellness Pharmacy: 63892077

IMH Clinic C (NAMS) Pharmacy: 63893666

Community Wellness Centre Pharmacy: 64715797

Geylang Behavioural Medicine Pharmacy: 67461724

Child Guidance Clinic (HPB) Pharmacy: 64353807

Child Guidance (Sunrise Wing) Pharmacy: 63892410

Email: enquiry@imh.com.sg

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