

What is this medicine for?

Atomoxetine is a selective norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor.

It can be used along with educational, social and psychological methods to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). ADHD is associated with:

- severe inattention,
- hyperactivity, and
- impulsivity

that may interfere with an individual's ability to function in school, at work, or in social settings. Examples of ADHD symptoms include making careless mistakes, losing things necessary for tasks, the inability to sit still and focus, and interrupting or intruding on others. This medication helps by increasing attention span, concentration and decreasing restlessness in children and adults who are overactive, easily distracted, and impulsive.

Atomoxetine is an option for those who have not responded to or cannot tolerate stimulant medications (e.g. methylphenidate), or in those who may benefit from a medication with low to no abuse potential.

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 (or a family history of) heart problems; high blood pressure; problem with liver, stomach or intestines; alcohol or drug abuse; seizures (fits); Tourette's syndrome or other tics disorder; glaucoma; severe anxiety, agitation, tension or depression.

Tell your doctor if you are taking or have taken anti-depression medicine in the past 2 weeks.

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

How to use this medicine?

Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed.

Atomoxetine may be taken with or without food.

It may take 4 - 8 weeks to get the maximum benefit of this medication once the right dose is determined. However, improvements in some symptoms may occur sooner. It is important to continue taking as directed, even if you do not notice immediate improvement.

Precautions while taking this medicine:

- Although less common, atomoxetine may make you drowsy or less alert. Do not drive or operate machinery if affected.
- Caregivers should closely monitor their child for irritability, aggression or any unusual changes in behaviour, especially during the first few months of therapy and during any dosage changes.
- Your doctor will monitor the height and weight of the child regularly. Discuss with your doctor if you think this may be a problem.
- 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 vomiting
- ~ Decrease Appetite
- ~ Abdominal discomfort
- ~ Dry mouth
- ~ Tiredness
- ~ Difficulty in sleeping
- ~ Loss of interest in sex, or trouble having sex
- ~ Dizziness or headache

FOR URGENT ATTENTION

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

- ~ Allergic reaction: Itching, skin rash or hives
- ~ Fast or irregular heartbeat
- ~ Chest pain, shortness of breath or fainting
- ~ Tremors
- ~ Change in how much/ often you urinate
- ~ Dark coloured urine or pale stools
- ~ Yellowing of skin or whites of eyes
- ~ Seizures (fits)
- ~ Confusion
- ~ New or worsening mental symptoms such as delusions (abnormal thinking) or hallucinations
- ~ Mood changes, aggressiveness, irritability or low mood
- ~ Blurred vision

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, check 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.

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 Pharmacy: 64353807

Child Guidance (Sunrise Wing) Pharmacy: 63892410

Email: enquiry@imh.com.sg



Patient Information Leaflet on

ATOMOXETINE

