

Citapram[®]

(Citalopram)

Pharmacological properties

Citapram[®] is a potent antidepressant that has the most selective inhibition of serotonin uptake since it has no or very low affinity for muscarinic cholinergic receptors, histamine receptors and adrenoceptors which explains why **Citapram[®]** produces fewer of the traditional adverse effects of tricyclic antidepressants such as dry mouth, blurred vision, sedation, cardiotoxicity and orthostatic hypotension. Unlike other SSRI's, **Citapram[®]** is a very weak inhibitor of Cytochrome P450 2D6 metabolic pathway with a consequent reduction in potential for adverse events and interactions. **Citapram[®]** causes minimal sedation, no weight gain and does not affect cardiac conduction, blood pressure, hepatic or renal function which is particularly important in the elderly.

Indications

Citapram[®] is indicated in the treatment of depression.

Dosage and administration

Citapram[®] is administered in a dose of 20mg once daily, and may be increased to a maximum of 60mg once daily. **Citapram[®]** is given in the morning or evening regardless of meals. A treatment of at least 6 months is usually necessary to minimize potential relapse.

Geriatrics: recommended starting dose is 20mg once daily titrated to 40mg once daily in nonresponders

Pediatrics: Safety and effectiveness have not been established.

Renal impairment: caution should be exercised in severe renal impairment while no dosage adjustment is needed in mild to moderate cases

Hepatic impairment: dosage is restricted to 20mg daily.

Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy category C. Citalopram should only be used if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus and the same statement is considered in lactation as citalopram is excreted in very low concentrations in human breast milk.

Adverse Effects

Generally mild and transient and attenuate after the first or second week of treatment. Most commonly dry mouth, nausea, somnolence, increased sweating and tremor. Rarely seizures have occurred. Citalopram may cause a clinically insignificant reduction in heart rate but may lead to bradycardia in patients with pre-existing low heart rate.

Precautions

- Like other SSRI's, citalopram should not be given concomitantly with monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOI's), or for 14 days after their discontinuation. Treatment with MAOI's might be initiated a week after discontinuation of citalopram.

- If the patient entered a manic phase, citalopram is to be discontinued and a proper neuroleptic is introduced.
- As with other antidepressants, the possibility of suicide may persist until significant remission occurs.
- Increased risks of suicidal thinking and behavior, known as suicidality, in young adults ages 18 to 24 during initial treatment (generally the first one to two months).

Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to citalopram.

Ability to drive and operate machines

Citalopram doesn't produce impairment in intellectual function and psychomotor performance. Because psychotropic drugs may be expected to impair general attention and concentration, patients should be cautioned about their ability to drive or operate machines.

Drug Interactions

- Coadministration with MAOI's may cause serotonin syndrome.
- SSRI's may enhance Sumatriptan's serotonergic effects and simultaneous use is not advised.
- Caution is advised upon concomitant use of the upper limit of citalopram dose with high doses of cimetidine since it causes a moderate increase in average steady state levels of citalopram.

No clinically significant interactions were seen with lithium, alcohol, phenothiazines, tricyclic antidepressants, benzodiazepines, neuroleptics, analgesics, anticholinergics, antihypertensives, β blockers and other cardiovascular drugs.

- Little clinical experience is available on the concomitant use with ECT.

Over dosage

In clinical trials involving overdoses, there were no reports of fatal citalopram overdose. Symptoms included dizziness, sweating, nausea, vomiting, tremor, somnolence, and sinus tachycardia. No specific antidote is available. Gastric lavage should be considered. ECG monitoring is recommended along with general symptomatic and supportive care.

Presentations

- **Citapram[®] 20mg tab:** Citalopram 20mg/tablet. (Available in different pack sizes)
- **Citapram[®] 40mg tab:** Citalopram 40mg/tablet. (Available in different pack sizes)

(This is a medicament - keep medicaments out of reach of children)



Pharma International

- Medicament is a product which affects your health and consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, method and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament and the doctor and the pharmacist are experts in benefits and risks.
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.
- Do not repeat the same prescription without your doctor.