

Paxil (paroxetine) basics

Improves mood and anxiety. Paxil (paroxetine) is effective for treating depression and anxiety, but causes more unwanted side-effects than other medicines that work like it.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

Tips from pharmacists

- Don't stop taking the medicine if you don't see immediate relief in symptoms. You might start to feel better after 2 weeks, but the full effects can take up to 8 weeks.
- Talk to your doctor before stopping Paxil (paroxetine). Sudden discontinuation can cause unpleasant symptoms of withdrawal.
- Tell your doctor if you develop any mood changes or unusual thoughts or behavior while on this medicine.
- Be patient if Paxil (paroxetine) doesn't work for you. Finding the best medicine to improve your mood can take a few tries.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Paxil (paroxetine) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior, especially if used in children or adolescents. Watch for worsening depression or any changes in your mood or behavior. Report anything concerning to your doctor immediately. Paxil (paroxetine) is not approved for use in children younger than age 18.

High levels of serotonin (Serotonin Syndrome)

Serotonin syndrome is a rare, but life-threatening condition caused by high levels of serotonin. Your risk for this condition increases when you take Paxil (paroxetine) along with specific medicines such as other anti-depressants, lithium, triptans, or St. John's wort. Symptoms include fast heart rate, sweating, muscle stiffness or spasms, fever, and confusion. Get medical attention right away if you have symptoms.

Withdrawal

Stopping Paxil (paroxetine) suddenly may cause symptoms of withdrawal such as nausea, anxiety, agitation, and dizziness. This usually occurs within 3 days of stopping the medication. Consult your doctor before stopping Paxil (paroxetine).

