

Prozac (fluoxetine) basics

Improves mood and helps you relax. Prozac (fluoxetine) is good for treating depression and anxiety. It's more energizing than other antidepressants, so it may not be the best choice for people who have trouble sleeping.

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.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take in the morning because you might have trouble sleeping if you take the medicine at night.
- Can take Prozac (fluoxetine) with or without food.
- Takes about 8 to 12 weeks to see the full effects of the medicine on your mood.
- Tell your doctor right away if you notice sudden mood changes or unusual thoughts.

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

Prozac (fluoxetine) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior in people age 24 or younger. Prozac (fluoxetine) is not approved in children under 8 for depression or under 7 for OCD. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when the dose changes. Talk to a doctor right away if you notice anxiety, irritability, aggression, or any other unusual behaviors.

Serotonin syndrome

Serotonin syndrome is a rare but potentially life-threatening condition caused by too much serotonin activity in the body. Your risk goes up if you use Prozac (fluoxetine) with other medications that affect serotonin. Symptoms include fast heart rate, sweating, muscle stiffness, fever, and confusion. Go to the emergency room right away if you have these symptoms. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about your medicines.

Skin rash

Rarely, Prozac (fluoxetine) can cause a serious skin rash or allergic reaction. If you notice a severe blistering rash with a high fever, or you have trouble breathing with swelling in your face or neck, go to the emergency room right away.