



Duloxetine (Cymbalta®) Patient Information

What is this medicine used for?

Duloxetine is a serotonin-norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitor (SNRI) and is used to relieve pain from the nerves, from the spinal cord, or from the brain. It is becoming the first-line agent for use in the setting of pain and depression/anxiety. It is FDA-approved for use with certain types of nerve pain. It is commonly prescribed to help treat fibromyalgia, shingles (herpes zoster), diabetic neuropathy, spinal cord injury, peripheral neuropathy, sciatica, low back pain, and other conditions. Duloxetine is also approved in the treatment of Osteoarthritis and Musculoskeletal Pain.

How do I take this medicine?

Use duloxetine regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. It will take several weeks of regular use at an adequate dose in order to see changes in pain control. Duloxetine works best if it is taken at evenly spaced intervals approximately 24 hours apart.

Duloxetine may be taken with or without food. The medication is enteric-coated and should be taken whole without crushing or breaking.

Do not stop taking Duloxetine without notifying your doctor. Abruptly stopping this medication may cause uncomfortable side effects.

Your dose may be gradually increased so your body can adjust to the medication.

What if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next one as directed. Do not take double doses.

What are the possible side effects?

Duloxetine may cause nausea, dry mouth, headache, somnolence, dizziness, difficulty concentrating, fatigue, insomnia, constipation, diarrhea, anorexia, suicidal thoughts, or rash. Allergic reaction, swelling, high blood pressure, arrhythmias, hyperthermia, and severe skin reaction are rare but serious side effects. If you are pregnant, notify your doctor immediately.

This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your pharmacist or call Pittsburgh Pain Physicians at 412-533-2202 immediately. Remember that your doctor has prescribed duloxetine because he has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Most people using duloxetine do not have serious side effects.

Where should I store this medicine?

Store at room temperature away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom.

