

Lurasidone

(pronounced lurr – as – ee - dohn)

Why has lurasidone been prescribed?

Lurasidone is an antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia and other similar conditions.

What are the benefits of taking lurasidone?

Antipsychotics are effective in reducing the symptoms of psychosis. They also shorten the time to recovery and help prevent relapses.

Are there any precautions with lurasidone?

Lurasidone is suitable for most people. As with all medicines, however, there are precautions. Your prescriber will usually check that it is safe to prescribe lurasidone, but let your prescriber know if any of the following apply to you, as extra care may be needed:

- a) if you have Parkinson's disease, dementia, epilepsy, diabetes or suffer from heart, kidney trouble or liver problems
- b) if you are taking any other medication, especially medicines to lower blood pressure, rifampicin, antibiotics such as clarithromycin and telithromycin, antifungals such as itraconazole, ketoconazole, posaconazole and voriconazole, medication for hepatitis, HIV medicines, antidepressants and anticonvulsants. Also, tell your prescriber if you buy any medicine 'over the counter' from a pharmacy or supermarket. Please also tell your prescriber if you take any alternative or complementary medicine such as Chinese herbal medicines.
- c) if you are pregnant, breast feeding, or wish to become pregnant.

What is the usual dose of lurasidone?

The starting dose is usually 37mg a day. This is sometimes increased slowly over a few days. The usual dose of lurasidone may be between 37mg and 148mg a day. It may take a few weeks to get to the dose that is most suitable.

How should lurasidone be taken?

Lurasidone is usually taken once a day with food or after eating.

What form does lurasidone come in?

Lurasidone is available only as tablets. The tablets are available as 18.5mg, 37mg and 74mg.

What should be done if a dose is missed?

If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember, as long as it is within a few hours of the usual time. If you miss a whole day's dose – just carry on as normal with the next day's dose. If you miss more than a day's dose, speak to your prescriber.

What will happen when lurasidone is first taken?

Lurasidone, like many medicines, does not work straight away. For example, it may take several days or even weeks for some symptoms to improve. To begin with some people find that lurasidone makes them feel more alert and less slowed down. Many people do not experience any side effects. However some people may experience side effects. We have listed potential side effects in the table below, whether or not they are likely to be short or long-term and what measures can be taken is also described. There are other possible side effects – we have listed only the most important ones. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are worried about anything else that you think might be a side effect. Further information on side effects is available in the official manufacturer's leaflet.

Reporting side effects

The 'Yellow Card' scheme encourages patients to report any side effects that they feel may be caused by their medication. Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse for the forms if you wish to report any side effects. Alternatively, telephone 0800 100 3352 or go to www.mhra.gov.uk.

Is lurasidone addictive?

No, lurasidone is not addictive. However, if you stop taking the medicine suddenly, you may experience unpleasant physical feelings.

What about alcohol?

It is recommended that people receiving lurasidone should not drink alcohol. This is because both antipsychotics and alcohol can cause drowsiness. If the two are taken together, severe drowsiness can result. This can lead to falls and accidents. As well as this, drinking alcohol may make psychosis worse. However, once people are used to receiving medication, then *very small amounts* of alcohol may not be harmful. It pays to be very careful, because alcohol affects people in different ways, especially when they are receiving medication. Never drink alcohol and drive. Discuss any concerns you may have with your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Is it OK to stop taking lurasidone when symptoms go away?

No. If you stop taking lurasidone your original symptoms are very likely to return. Most people need to be on lurasidone for quite a long time, sometimes years. You should always discuss any plans you have to reduce or stop any of your prescribed medicines with your prescriber.

Are there any alternatives to lurasidone?

Yes, there are alternatives available. Overall, antipsychotics have broadly similar therapeutic effects, except for clozapine which is effective when other antipsychotics have failed. Antipsychotics differ in their side effects. With the range of medicines now available, a suitable and acceptable antipsychotic can usually be found for everyone.

Summary of side effects

Side effect	Side effect
<p>Drowsiness – Common</p> <p>What can be done about it? This should wear off within a few days or weeks. Discuss with your prescriber if this persists. Taking the medication at night-time may help, but beware of drowsiness in the following morning.</p> 	<p>Agitation, anxiety and restlessness - Common (also known as akathisia)</p> <p>What can be done about it? This tends to wear off. Sometimes, medication for anxiety is prescribed. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.</p> 

(Other less common) side effects	How common is it and what can be done about it?
Insomnia or disturbed sleep	Uncommon This should wear off within a few days. Discuss with your prescriber if this persists
Nausea	Uncommon This should wear off within a few days. Taking the medication with food may help. Discuss with your prescriber if this persists.
Parkinsonism (slowed movements, muscle stiffness and tremor)	Very uncommon Another medicine may be prescribed to treat this. Treatment may be switched to another medicine which does not cause this side effect.
Dizziness	Very uncommon This may wear off within a few days. Discuss with your prescriber if this persists
Weight gain	Very uncommon Some people put on a few pounds Try to eat healthily and take exercise.

Very common = almost everyone affected Common = many people affected Uncommon = some people affected
Rare = few people affected Very rare = very few or no one affected

Disclaimer

This leaflet is to help you understand more about your medication. This is not an official manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet (see <http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>). Remember, leaflets like this can only describe some of the effects of medication. You may also find other books or leaflets useful. If you have access to the internet you may find a lot of information there as well, but be careful, as internet based information is not always accurate. If in doubt consult your GP or a health care professional.

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