

# FLUOXETINE BIOTECH 20

## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

### SCHEDULING STATUS

**[55]**

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH 20 Capsules Fluoxetine hydrochloride Contains sugar (140 mg lactose monohydrate per capsule).

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, please ask your doctor, pharmacist, nurse or other health care provider.
- FLUOXETINE BIOTECH has been prescribed for you personally and you should not share your medicine with other people. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

#### WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET:

- What FLUOXETINE BIOTECH is and what it is used for
- What you need to know before your take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH
- How to take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH
- Possible side effects
- How to store FLUOXETINE BIOTECH
- Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What FLUOXETINE BIOTECH is and what it is used for

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH contains fluoxetine which belongs to a group of medicines called antidepressants. FLUOXETINE BIOTECH will relieve the symptoms of depression. It may also be used to treat the eating disorder bulimia nervosa and the condition obsessive compulsive disorder.

#### 2. What you need to know before you take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH

**Do not take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH if you:**

- Are allergic (hypersensitive) to fluoxetine or any of the other ingredients of FLUOXETINE BIOTECH (listed in section 6).
- Are taking, or have taken within the last two weeks, any irreversible, non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs, e.g. iproniazid).
- Are taking metoprolol for heart failure.
- Suffer from severe kidney failure.
- Are a child younger than 18 years of age.

#### Warnings and precautions:

**Tell your doctor before taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH if you:**

- Suffer from epilepsy or if you have had a fit in the past. FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may increase the likelihood of an epileptic fit. If after taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH, you develop a fit for the first time or get more fits than usual, seek medical advice from your doctor.
- Have a history of mental illness known as mania or hypomania.
- Suffer from heart, kidney or liver problems.
- Have glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye).
- Suffer from diabetes. FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may alter your blood sugar levels. Your doctor may need to alter the dose of your insulin or other diabetes control medicine.
- Have a history of bleeding disorders or develop unexpected bruising, reddening under the skin or bleeding from any other part of the body, or if you are pregnant (see “PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING”).
- Are having electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).
- Are taking buprenorphine/naloxone. The use of these medicines together with FLUOXETINE BIOTECH can lead to serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition (see “OTHER MEDICINES AND FLUOXETINE BIOTECH”).

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH will not work straight away.

Some people taking antidepressants feel worse before feeling better. Your doctor should ask to see you again a couple of weeks after you first started treatment. Tell your doctor if you are not yet feeling better.

Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression or anxiety disorder:

If you are depressed and/or have anxiety disorders, you can sometimes have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. These thoughts may increase when first starting antidepressants, since these medicines all take time to work, usually about two weeks but sometimes longer.

You may be more likely to think like this:

- If you have previously had thoughts about killing or harming yourself.
- If you are a young adult. Information from clinical trials has shown an increased risk of suicidal behaviour in young adults (less than 25 years old) with psychiatric conditions, who were treated with an antidepressant.

If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away. You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed or have an anxiety disorder and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression or anxiety is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour.

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may cause serotonin syndrome:

See section 4. If you experience fever, muscle stiffness or tremor, changes in your mental state like confusion, irritability and extreme agitation, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are starting to feel restless and cannot sit or stand still (akathisia):

Tell your doctor. Increasing your dose of FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may make this worse.

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may cause symptoms of sexual dysfunction:

See section 4. In some cases, these symptoms have continued after stopping treatment.

#### Children and adolescents:

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH is not intended for use in children under the age of 18 years of age.

#### Other medicines and FLUOXETINE BIOTECH:

Always tell your health care provider if you are taking any other medicine. (This includes all complementary or traditional medicines).

#### Do not take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH with:

- Irreversible, non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs, e.g. iproniazid). FLUOXETINE BIOTECH should only be started at least 2 weeks after stopping an irreversible non-selective MAOI. Do not take any irreversible non-selective MAOIs for at least 5 weeks after you stopped taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH.
- Metoprolol (used for heart failure).

#### Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking:

- Medicines that may affect the heart’s rhythm, e.g. class IA and III antidysrhythmics, antipsychotics (e.g. phenothiazine derivatives, pimozide, haloperidol), tricyclic antidepressants, certain antimicrobial agents (e.g. sparfloxacin, moxifloxacin, erythromycin IV, pentamidine), anti-malaria treatment, particularly halofantrine, or certain antihistamines (astemizole, mizolastine). Taking one or more of these medicines with FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may increase the risk of changes in the electrical activity of the heart.
- Lithium, for mental illness.
- Linezolid and methylthionium chloride (methylene blue) monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs).

- Nebivolol (used to treat high blood pressure).
- Propafenone or flecainide (used to treat heart problems).
- Atomoxetine (used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)).
- Risperidone (used to treat psychotic disorders).
- Diuretics (water tablets).
- Desmopressin (used to reduce the amount of urine produced by the kidneys).
- Mefloquine, chloroquine (anti-malaria).
- Mequitazine, cyproheptadine (antihistamines).
- Oxcarbazepine, carbamazepine or phenytoin for epilepsy or other conditions.
- Any other medicines for depression, e.g. SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors).
- Selegiline for Parkinson’s disease.
- Tramadol for pain relief.
- Bupropion (used to help stop smoking).
- Triptans (e.g. sumatriptan) for migraine or cluster headaches.
- Medicines to thin the blood (e.g. warfarin).
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, e.g. ibuprofen) or aspirin (for pain relief).
- Tryptophan (an amino acid).
- Buprenorphine/naloxone (used to treat opioid overdose). These medicines may interact with FLUOXETINE BIOTECH and you may experience symptoms such as involuntary, rhythmic contractions of muscles, including the muscles that control movement of the eye, agitation, hallucinations, coma, excessive sweating, tremor, exaggeration of reflexes, increased muscle tension, body temperature above 38 °C. Contact your doctor when experiencing such symptoms.
- Tamoxifen (used to treat breast cancer).
- The herbal remedy St John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*). This should not be taken at the same time as FLUOXETINE BIOTECH. Stop taking the St John’s wort and mention it to your doctor at your next visit.

#### FLUOXETINE BIOTECH with food, drink and alcohol:

You should avoid alcohol while taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH.

#### Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility:

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other health care provider for advice before taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH.

Safe use in pregnancy and breastfeeding has not been established.

If you take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH near the end of your pregnancy there may be an increased risk of heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth, especially if you have a history of bleeding disorders. Your doctor or midwife should be aware that you are taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH so they can advise you.

Fluoxetine has been shown to reduce the quality of sperm in animal studies. This could affect fertility, but impact on human fertility has not been observed yet.

#### Driving and using machines:

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH can affect your judgement or coordination. Do not drive or use machinery unless you are sure that you are not affected.

#### FLUOXETINE BIOTECH contains lactose monohydrate:

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH.

#### 3. How to take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH

Do not share medicines prescribed for you with any other person.

Always take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The usual dose is one (20 mg) to three (60 mg) capsules once a day depending on your condition.

Swallow the capsule whole with a drink of water.

If you suffer from kidney or liver problems or are elderly, your doctor may prescribe a different dose.

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may not make you feel any better for the first 2 weeks or more. It should be taken for as long as your doctor tells you to.

If you have the impression that the effect of FLUOXETINE BIOTECH is too strong or too weak, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

#### If you take more FLUOXETINE BIOTECH than you should:

In the event of overdosage, consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately. If neither is available, contact the nearest hospital or poison centre. Signs of an overdose include nausea, vomiting, seizures, heart problems, lung problems, and signs of altered central nervous system status ranging from excitation to coma.

#### If you forget to take FLUOXETINE BIOTECH:

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember it and then take the next dose at the right time.

#### If you stop taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH:

Do not stop taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH without asking your doctor first, even when you start to feel better. It is important that you keep taking your medicine. Make sure you do not run out of capsules.

*You may notice the following effects (withdrawal symptoms) when you stop taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH:* Dizziness; tingling feelings like pins and needles; sleep disturbances (vivid dreams, nightmares, inability to sleep); feeling restless or agitated; unusual tiredness or weakness; feeling anxious; nausea/vomiting (feeling sick or being sick); tremor (shakiness); headaches.

When stopping FLUOXETINE BIOTECH, your doctor will help you to reduce your dose slowly over one or two weeks – this should help reduce the chance of withdrawal effects. Most people find that any symptoms on stopping FLUOXETINE BIOTECH are mild and disappear within a few weeks.

If you experience symptoms when you stop treatment, contact your doctor immediately.

#### 4. Possible side effects

FLUOXETINE BIOTECH can have side effects.

Not all side effects reported for FLUOXETINE BIOTECH are included in this leaflet. Should your general health worsen or if you experience any untoward effects while taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH, please consult your doctor, pharmacist or other health care provider for advice.

#### If any of the following happens, stop taking FLUOXETINE BIOTECH and tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- Swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing.
  - Rash or itching.
  - Fainting.
- These are all very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious allergic reaction to FLUOXETINE BIOTECH. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

#### Tell your doctor immediately or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- Thoughts of suicide or harming yourself (see section 2).
- A combination of symptoms (known as serotonin syndrome) including unexplained fever with faster breathing or heart rate, sweating, muscle stiffness or tremor, confusion, extreme agitation or sleepiness (see section 2).
- If you feel restless and cannot sit or stand still, you may have akathisia (feeling of inner restlessness, a constant urge to be moving); increasing your dose of FLUOXETINE BIOTECH may make you feel worse. If you feel like this, contact your doctor (see section 2).
- A condition where your body retains too much water, resulting in weakness, drowsiness, nausea and vomiting, cramps or tremors, confusion or coma.
- Decreased sex drive or sexual problems (including difficulty maintaining an erection for sexual activity), orgasm problems, persistent painful erection.

- Uncontrollable shaking movements of the mouth, tongue and limbs.
- Fits (seizures).
- Rapid or irregular heartbeat sensations. Fainting, collapsing or dizziness upon standing may indicate an abnormal functioning of the heart rate.
- Lung problems including lung inflammation and fibrosis (formation of fibrous tissue on the lungs). You may get shortness of breath before you get these signs of illness.
- Bleeding from stomach or intestines, e.g. black tarry stools, unexplained bleeding or bruising, fever, sore throat, tiredness which can be signs of decreased blood counts.
- Bleeding of mucous membranes, bleeding under the skin.
- Hepatitis (inflammation of the liver causing yellowing of the skin or eyes or tiredness, pain in abdomen, joints or muscles) and signs such as jaundice (yellowing of the whites of the eyes and skin).
- Widespread skin rash, circular, irregular red patches on the skin of the hands and arms (erythema multiforme).
- Severe form of skin rash with flushing, fever, blisters or ulcers (Stevens-Johnson syndrome).
- Severe rash involving reddening, peeling and swelling of the skin that resembles severe burns (toxic epidermal necrolysis).
- Heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth (postpartum haemorrhage) (see section 2, “PREGNANCY, LACTATION AND FERTILITY”).
- Inability to urinate, passing urine more frequently, painful urination. These are all serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

#### Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

Frequent side effects:

- Not feeling hungry, weight loss.
- Sleep problems, unusual dreams, having difficulty falling asleep.
- Nervousness, anxiety, restlessness, poor concentration.
- Feeling tense.
- Dizziness, headache.
- Change in taste.
- Blurred vision.
- Flushing.
- Yawning.
- Indigestion, dry mouth, nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea.
- Rash, urticaria, itching.
- Excessive sweating.
- Joint pain.
- Feeling shaky or chills.
- Weight loss.

Less frequent side effects:

- Abnormal blood test results.
- Low levels of salt in the blood.
- Feeling detached from yourself, strange thinking, elevated mood, hallucinations (seeing or hearing things), agitation, panic attacks, confusion, stuttering, aggression.
- Muscle twitching, involuntary movements or problems with balance or coordination.
- Memory loss or memory problems.
- Enlarged (dilated) pupils.
- Ringing in the ears.
- Low blood pressure.
- Inflammation of the blood vessels (vasculitis), widening of blood vessels (vasodilatation).
- Sore throat (pharyngitis).
- Shortness of breath, nose bleeds.
- Difficulty swallowing, pain in the gullet (oesophageal pain).
- Hair loss (temporary).
- Sensitivity to sunlight (photosensitivity).
- Excessive production of breast milk.
- Cold sweat, feeling hot or cold.
- Muscle pains.
- Abnormal liver function tests.

If you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor or pharmacist.

#### Reporting of side effects:

If you get side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. You can also report side effects to SAHPRA via the *“Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting Form”*, found online under SAHPRA’s publications: https://www.sahpra.org.za/Publications/Index/8. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of FLUOXETINE BIOTECH.

#### 5. How to store FLUOXETINE BIOTECH

- Store at or below 25 °C.
- STORE ALL MEDICINES OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.
- Do not use after the expiry date stated on the packaging.
- Return all unused medicine to your pharmacist.
- Do not dispose of unused medicine in drains or sewerage systems (e.g. toilets).

#### 6. Contents of the pack and other information

**What FLUOXETINE BIOTECH contains:**

The active ingredient is fluoxetine hydrochloride.

Each capsule contains 20 mg fluoxetine (as fluoxetine hydrochloride).

The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, corn starch, talc and stearic acid. The capsule shell contains gelatine, patent blue, iron oxide yellow, quinoline yellow, erythrosine, titanium dioxide.

#### What FLUOXETINE BIOTECH looks like and contents of the pack:

Ivory opaque body, green opaque cap, hard gelatine capsules. White powder fill.

#### FLUOXETINE BIOTECH 20 is packed in:

White high-density polyethylene bottles containing 28, 30, 100 or 500 capsules. Or Aluminium foil and clear PVC blisters, packed in outer carton boxes containing 28, 30, 100 or 500 capsules. All pack sizes may not necessarily be marketed at one time.

#### Holder of certificate of registration and manufacturer:

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