

**“The only voice I hear now is my own”**

**THE POWER TO TREAT POSITIVE SYMPTOMS**

- The ability to reduce positive symptoms is a prerequisite for all antipsychotic treatments
- Serdolect’s efficacy has been established in 5 pivotal double-blind randomised parallel group studies involving over 1600 patients<sup>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</sup>

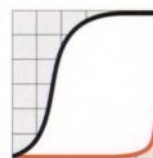
In addition to this SERDOLECT demonstrates:

- EFFICACY AGAINST NEGATIVE SYMPTOMS<sup>1, 6, 7, 8</sup>
- EPS AT PLACEBO LEVEL<sup>1</sup>
- SEDATION AT PLACEBO LEVEL<sup>2</sup>
- LACK OF ANTICHOLINERGIC SIDE EFFECTS<sup>1</sup>



sertindole

Success is a long-term achievement



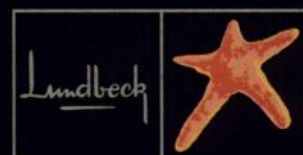
**SERDOLECT: ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

**Presentation:** Tablets of 4mg, 12mg, 16mg or 20mg sertindole. **Indications:** Treatment of schizophrenia. Not for urgent relief of symptoms in acutely disturbed patients. **Dosage and administration:** Tablets should be taken orally once daily without regard for food. Adults: All patients should be started on 4mg/day. The dose should be increased by 4mg increments after 4-5 days on each dose to the optimum daily maintenance dose range of 12-20mg. The dose may be increased to a maximum of 24mg. Re-titration is necessary if dosing is suspended for more than one week. Children: Not recommended. Mild to moderate hepatic impairment: Slower titration and lower maintenance dose. Elderly: Slower titration and lower maintenance doses may be required. **Contraindications:** Known prolongation of QT interval or combined use of drugs known to prolong QT interval. Clinically significant cardiac disease or uncorrected hypokalaemia. Combined use of drugs that may induce hypokalaemia. Diuretic therapy may be initiated if required but a potassium-sparing agent must be used. Combined use of quinidine or systemic ketoconazole or itraconazole. Severe hepatic impairment. Hypersensitivity to Serdolect. **Pregnancy and lactation:** Safety during human pregnancy and lactation has not been established and Serdolect should not be used during pregnancy. Nursing mothers should not breast-feed if they are taking Serdolect. **Precautions:** Serdolect is not sedative, however, patients should be advised not to drive or operate machinery until their individual susceptibility is known. History of diabetes, seizures, Parkinson’s disease. Symptoms of orthostatic hypotension may occur and blood pressure should be monitored during initial dose titration and in early maintenance phase. In common with other antipsychotic drugs, Serdolect lengthens the QT interval in some patients (<1.7% of patients). Electrolyte imbalance or combined use of other drugs that inhibit Serdolect metabolism can increase the risk of occurrence of prolonged QT interval. An ECG should be performed prior to use with periodic ECG monitoring during treatment. Serdolect should not be initiated or should be discontinued if the QT<sub>c</sub> interval exceeds 520 msec. Hypokalaemia and hypomagnesaemia should be corrected and maintained within normal limits during treatment. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear, consider dose reduction or discontinuation. **Drug interactions:** (see also contraindications). Combined use of agents known to inhibit hepatic isoenzymes may necessitate lower maintenance doses. Combined use of agents known to induce hepatic isoenzymes may necessitate maintenance doses toward the upper dose range. **Adverse events:** Most commonly (>1% of patients): nasal

congestion, decreased ejaculatory volume, dizziness, dry mouth, postural hypotension, weight gain, peripheral oedema, dyspnoea, paraesthesia and prolonged QT interval. Incidence of EPS adverse events similar to placebo. Overdosage: Symptoms have included somnolence, slurred speech, tachycardia, hypotension and transient prolongation of QT interval. There is no specific antidote. Treatment is supportive and symptomatic. Epinephrine and dopamine should not be used (may exacerbate hypotension). Cardiovascular monitoring recommended. Administration of activated charcoal and laxative should be considered. **Package quantities and basic NHS price:** 4mg tablets, £36.63 for 30 tablet pack, 12mg tablets, £102.55 for 28 tablet calendar pack. 16mg tablets, £102.55 for 28 tablet calendar pack. 20mg tablets, £102.55 for 28 tablet calendar pack. Legal category: POM. **Product Licence numbers:** 4mg: 13761/0001. 12mg: 13761/0003. 16mg: 13761/0004. 20mg: 13761/0005. **Date of last review:** April 1997. Further information is available on request from Lundbeck Limited, Sunningdale House, Caldecotte Lake Business Park, Caldecotte, Milton Keynes, MK7 8LF. Serdolect<sup>®</sup> is a registered trademark of H. Lundbeck A/S.

**REFERENCES**

1. Zimbroff DL et al. Am J Psychiatry 1997;154:782-791.
2. Data on File, H. Lundbeck A/S
3. Zborowski J et al. Poster at 148th APA Meeting, 1995, Miami
4. McEvoy J et al. Schizoph Res 1993,9(2,3)244
5. van Kammen DP et al. Psychopharmacology 1996;124:168-175
6. Krystal J et al. Poster at 35th ANCP Meeting, December 1996, Puerto Rico
7. Hale A et al. Poster presented at CINP Meeting, June 1996, Melbourne
8. Wehnert A et al. Poster presented at 6th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, 1997, Nice



**'PROZAC' ABBREVIATED PRESCRIBING INFORMATION  
(FLUOXETINE HYDROCHLORIDE)**

**Presentation** Capsules containing 20mg or 60mg fluoxetine, as the hydrochloride. Liquid containing 20mg fluoxetine, as the hydrochloride, per 5ml syrup. **Uses** **Depression: TREATMENT OF THE SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSIVE ILLNESS, WITH OR WITHOUT ASSOCIATED, ANXIETY SYMPTOMS.** *Obsessive-compulsive disorder. Bulimia nervosa:* For the reduction of binge-eating and purging activity. **Dosage and Administration** (For full information, see data sheet.) For oral administration to adults only. *Depression, with or without associated anxiety symptoms - adults and the elderly:* A dose of 20mg/day is recommended. *Obsessive-compulsive disorder:* 20mg/day to 60mg/day. A dose of 20mg/day is recommended as the initial dose. *Bulimia - adults and the elderly:* A dose of 60mg/day is recommended. Because of the long elimination half-lives of the parent drug (1-3 days after acute administration; may be prolonged to 4-6 days after chronic administration) and its major metabolite (average 9.3 days), active drug substance will persist in the body for several weeks after dosing is stopped. The capsule and liquid dosage forms are bioequivalent. **Children:** Not recommended. **Patients with renal and/or hepatic dysfunction:** See 'Contraindications' and 'Precautions' sections. **Contraindications** Hypersensitivity to fluoxetine.


Prozac should not be administered to patients with severe renal failure (GFR <10ml/min). **Usage in nursing mothers:** Prozac should not be prescribed to nursing mothers.

**Monoamine oxidase inhibitors:** At least 14 days should elapse between discontinuation of an MAOI and initiation of treatment with Prozac. At least five weeks should elapse between discontinuation of Prozac and initiation of therapy with an MAOI. Serious, sometimes fatal reactions (including hyperthermia, rigidity, myoclonus, autonomic instability and mental status changes that include extreme agitation, progressing to delirium and coma) have been reported with concomitant use or when fluoxetine had been recently discontinued and an MAOI started. Some cases presented with features resembling neuroleptic malignant syndrome.

**Warnings** *Rash and allergic reactions:* Angioneurotic oedema, urticaria and other allergic reactions have been reported. Upon appearance of rash, or of other allergic phenomena for which an alternative aetiology cannot be identified, Prozac should be discontinued. **Pregnancy:** Use of Prozac should be avoided unless there is no safer alternative. **Precautions** Prozac should be discontinued in any patient who develops seizures. Prozac should be avoided in patients with unstable epilepsy; patients with controlled epilepsy should be carefully monitored. There have been rare reports of prolonged seizures in patients on fluoxetine receiving ECT treatment. A lower dose of Prozac, eg, alternate day dosing, is recommended in patients with significant hepatic dysfunction or mild to moderate renal failure (GFR 10-50ml/min). Caution is advisable when Prozac is used in patients with acute cardiac disease. Prozac may cause weight loss which may be undesirable in underweight depressed patients. In diabetics, fluoxetine may alter glycaemic control. There have been reports of abnormal bleeding in several patients, but causal relationship to fluoxetine and clinical importance are unclear. **Drug interactions:** Increased (with lithium toxicity) or decreased lithium levels have been reported. Lithium levels should be monitored. Because fluoxetine's metabolism involves the hepatic cytochrome P450IID6 isoenzyme system, concomitant therapy with other drugs also metabolised by this system, and which have a narrow therapeutic index (eg, carbamazepine, tricyclic antidepressants), should be initiated at or adjusted to the low end of their dose range. Greater than 2-fold increases of previously stable plasma levels of cyclic antidepressants have been observed when Prozac has been administered in combination. Agitation, restlessness and gastro-intestinal symptoms have been reported in a small number of patients receiving fluoxetine in combination with tryptophan. Patients on stable phenytoin doses have developed elevated plasma concentrations and clinical phenytoin toxicity after starting fluoxetine.

**For further information, see data sheet. Adverse Effects** Asthenia, fever, nausea, diarrhoea, dry mouth, appetite loss, dyspepsia, vomiting, rarely abnormal LFTs, headache, nervousness, insomnia, drowsiness, anxiety, tremor, dizziness, fatigue, decreased libido, seizures, hypomania or mania, dyskinesia, movement disorders, neuroleptic malignant syndrome-like events, pharyngitis, dyspnoea, pulmonary events (including inflammatory processes and/or fibrosis), rash, urticaria, vasculitis, excessive sweating, arthralgia, myalgia, serum sickness, anaphylactoid reactions, hair loss, sexual dysfunction. The following have been reported in association with fluoxetine but no causal relationship has been established: aplastic anaemia, cerebral vascular accident, confusion, ecchymoses, eosinophilic pneumonia, gastro-intestinal haemorrhage, hyperprolactinaemia, immune-related haemolytic anaemia, pancreatitis, pancytopenia, suicidal ideation, thrombocytopenia, thrombocytopenic purpura, vaginal bleeding after drug withdrawal and violent behaviour. Hyponatraemia (including serum sodium below 110mmol/l) has been rarely reported. This appears to be reversible upon discontinuation. **Overdosage** On the evidence available, fluoxetine has a wide margin of safety in overdose. Since introduction, reports of death, attributed to overdosage of fluoxetine alone, have been extremely rare. One patient who reportedly took 3000mg of fluoxetine experienced 2 grand mal seizures that remitted spontaneously. **Legal Category** POM **Product Licence Numbers** 0006/0195, 0006/0198, 0006/0272. **Basic NHS Cost** £20.77 per pack of 30 capsules (20mg). £67.85 per pack of 98 capsules (20mg). £62.31 per pack of 30 capsules (60mg). £19.39 per 70ml bottle. **Date of Preparation or Last Review** October 1996 (internal review June 1998). **Full Prescribing Information is Available From** Dista Products Limited, Dextra Court, Chapel Hill, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 5SY. Telephone: Basingstoke (01256) 352011. 'PROZAC' is a Dista trademark.

Date of preparation: July 1998

 **PSYCHIASTRY**



# PROZAC DELIVERS

**PROZAC**  
fluoxetine

## TREATING DEPRESSION WITH ASSOCIATED ANXIETY