

Sertraline (Patient Education - Pediatric Medication)  
Pronunciation

(SER tra leen)

Brand Names: U.S.

Zoloft®

Brand Names: Canada

Apo-Sertraline®; CO Sertraline; Dom-Sertraline; GD-Sertraline; Mylan-Sertraline; Nu-Sertraline; PHL-Sertraline; PMS-Sertraline; ratio-Sertraline; Riva-Sertraline; Sandoz-Sertraline; Teva-Sertraline; Zoloft®

What key warnings do I need to know about before giving this drug to my child?

- Watch your child closely for signs of low mood (depression) or a want to harm him/herself. These feelings may last until the low mood is fully treated. Ask your child to talk with you if he/she is planning to harm him/herself. Take your child to the nearest ER (emergency room) if he/she wants to harm him/herself. Talk with the doctor.
- Sometimes low mood (depression) may get worse after starting this drug. Watch your child closely for signs of this. Talk with the doctor right away if you notice this change.
- There is a chance of serotonin syndrome when using a migraine drug with this drug. The syndrome is caused by too much serotonin in the body. Signs include agitation, changes in blood pressure, loose stools, a fast heartbeat, hallucinations, upset stomach and throwing up, change in balance, and change in thinking clearly and with logic. Talk with the doctor.
- Sometimes drugs are not safe when your child takes them with other drugs. Taking them together can cause bad side effects. This is one of those drugs. Be sure to talk to your child's doctor about all the drugs your child takes.
- Please read the medication guide.

Is it safe for my child to take this drug?

- **All products:**
- Not if your child has an allergy to sertraline or any other part of this drug.
- Be sure to let the doctor know if your child has any allergies or side effects to drugs, foods, or dyes. Make sure to tell about the allergy and what signs your child had. This includes telling about rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- **Zoloft® Liquid:**
- Not if your child has a latex allergy. The dropper has rubber.

Why does my child need this drug?

- It is used to treat low mood (depression).
- It is used to treat obsessive-compulsive problems.

How does this drug work?

- Sertraline raises chemicals in the brain.

How is this drug given?

- To gain the most benefit, do not miss giving your child doses.
- Give in the morning.
- Give this drug with or without food. Always give with food or always give on an empty stomach.
- **Liquid:**
- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, get an oral syringe, a dropper, a spoon, or a cup (only for older children) from your pharmacist.
- Mix liquid with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of water, ginger ale, lemon-lime soda, lemonade, or orange juice.
- Children who have feeding tubes may also use the liquid. Flush the feeding tube before and after this drug is given.

How long does this drug take to work?

- Your child may start feeling better a few weeks after starting this drug.
- It may take 6 weeks to see the full effect.

What do I do if my child misses a dose? (does not apply to patients in the hospital)

- Give a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your child's next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses or extra doses.
- Do not change the dose or stop your child's drug. Talk with your child's doctor.

What safety measures do I need to take when my child is using this drug?

- If your child has been taking this drug for many weeks, talk with your child's doctor before stopping. You may want to slowly stop this drug.
- If your child has bleeding problems, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has kidney disease, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has liver disease, talk with the doctor.
- If your child has seizures, talk with the doctor.
- Check all drugs your child is taking with your child's doctor. This drug may not mix well with some other drugs.
- Avoid giving your child other drugs and natural products that may slow your child's actions.
- Keep a list of all your child's drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child's doctor.
- This drug may cause your child to be less alert. Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for alertness. These include playing (for example, riding a bicycle, rollerblading, sports) or using items that call for your child to have focus or coordination (for example, scissors, lawnmower, electric scooters, or toy cars). Your child's actions will be closely watched until you see how this drug affects him/her. School work may be hard for your child to focus on and get done.
- Talk with the doctor before giving your child products that have aspirin, ibuprofen or like products, blood thinners (warfarin, ticlopidine, clopidogrel), garlic, ginseng, ginkgo, or vitamin E.
- Your child may get sunburned more easily. Avoid lots of sun, sunlamps, and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and dress your child in clothing and eyewear that protects him/her from the sun.

What are some side effects of this drug?

- Feeling lightheaded, sleepy, having blurred eyesight, or a change in thinking clearly. Have your child avoid tasks or actions that call for him/her to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this drug works.

- •Headache.
- •Upset stomach or throwing up. Many small meals and good mouth care may help. Older children may suck hard, sugar-free candy.
- •Loose stools (diarrhea).
- •Nervous and excitable.
- •Dry mouth. Good mouth care may help. Older children may suck hard, sugar-free candy. Have your child see a dentist often.
- •Not able to sleep. Giving this drug in the morning may help.

When do I need to call my child's doctor?

- •If any of this news causes you to be worried, any of the unwanted side effects happen, or if your child is not better after taking this drug.
- •If you think there was an overdose, call your local poison control center or ER right away.
- •If your child shows signs of a very bad reaction, call your child's doctor or the ER right away. These include wheezing; chest tightness; fever; itching; bad cough; blue skin color; seizures; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or if your child is not acting normal.
- •If your child is planning to harm him/herself. If the want to harm him/herself gets worse.
- •If your child has a change in thinking clearly and with logic.
- •If your child has a change in balance.
- •If your child is agitated, twitching, sweating, or has muscle stiffness.
- •If your child has a fast heartbeat.
- •If your child is feeling very nervous and excitable.
- •If your child has a very bad upset stomach or is throwing up.
- •If your child has very loose stools (diarrhea).
- •If your child has any bruising or bleeding.
- •If your child gets a rash.
- •If your child's health problem does not get better or if you believe your child's health problem is worse.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- •Store at room temperature.
- •Protect tablets from water. Do not store in a bathroom or kitchen.

General drug facts

- •If your child has a very bad allergy, he/she needs to wear an allergy ID at all times.
- •You may get this drug by drug order only. If there are refills, call your pharmacy. If your child does not have refills left, you may need to call your child's doctor.
- •Get rid of this drug when your child no longer needs it or if the drug is outdated.
- •Most drugs may be thrown away in household trash after mixing with coffee grounds or kitty litter and sealing in a plastic bag.
- •In Canada, take any unused drugs to the pharmacy. Also, visit <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/med/disposal-defaire-eng.php#th> to learn about the right way to get rid of unused drugs.
- •Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- •Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- •Keep a list of all your child's drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child's doctor.
- •Call your doctor for help with any side effects. If in the U.S., you may also call the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or if in Canada, you may also call Health Canada's Vigilance Program at 1-866-234-2345.

- •Talk with the doctor before giving your child any new drug, including OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- •If you do not use a drug the right way, it may not be safe. Follow what your child's doctor tells you.