

*This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the product characteristic leaflet that can be found inside all boxes of medication. The use of any medicine is based on considerations of how benefits outweigh potential side effects.

Venlafaxine is not currently licensed for the treatment of Migraine although it has a license for the treatment of other conditions such as depression.



Information for adult patients using Venlafaxine in the prevention of migraine headaches

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Neurology Services

The aim of this leaflet is to give you information about using Venlafaxine in the prevention of migraine headaches.

Why do I need Venlafaxine?

Venlafaxine can be useful in the **preventive** treatment of migraine. It is also used in other conditions such as depression; however, it can be useful in migraine prevention in individuals who are not depressed.

How long will Venlafaxine take to work?

You should notice that your headache starts to improve within a few weeks of starting Venlafaxine. If there is no improvement after about twelve weeks, a different preventive therapy may be considered.

How should I take Venlafaxine?

Venlafaxine is started at a low dose of 37.5mg at night and increased gradually to minimize any side effects. The lowest effective dose should be used, commonly 75mg at night for migraine, although smaller doses may be effective and occasionally larger doses of up to 150mg daily may be required. There is no evidence for doses greater than 150mg in the treatment of migraine.

For how long should I take them?

If there is a benefit, continue the drug for 6 months after which time it is reasonable to slowly cut down the dose then stop the drug.

Side-effects

These include constipation, nausea, sweating, tremor, weight changes, diarrhoea, drowsiness, dizziness, dry mouth.

It is sensible not to drive or operate machinery if side effects such as dizziness or drowsiness occur.

Alcohol consumption may make some of these side effects more pronounced. It is advisable to have your blood pressure monitored during Venlafaxine therapy and this can be carried out at your general practice.

Do not take Venlafaxine

Do not take Venlafaxine if you are allergic to this drug or you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding or if you have heart disease or uncontrolled high blood pressure.