

Exopex®  
Escitalopram  
Orodispersible tablet



Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What **Exopex®** ODT is and what it is used for
2. Before you take **Exopex®** ODT
3. How to take **Exopex®** ODT
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store **Exopex®** ODT
6. Further information

1.What Exopex® ODT is and what it is used for  
Pharmacotherapeutic group:

**Exopex®** ODT belongs to a group of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). These medicines act on the serotonin-system in the brain by increasing the serotonin level. Disturbances in the serotonin-system are considered an important factor in the development of depression and related diseases. ATC code: N06AB10.

Therapeutic indications:

**Exopex®** ODT contains escitalopram and is used to treat depression (major depressive episodes) and anxiety disorders (such as panic disorder with or without agoraphobia, social anxiety disorder, generalised anxiety disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder).It may take a couple of weeks before you start to feel better. Continue to take **Exopex®** ODT , even if it takes some time before you feel any improvement in your condition. You must talk to a doctor if you do not feel better or if you feel worse.

2.Before you take Exopex® ODT

a. Do not Take Exopex® ODT

- If you are allergic to escitalopram or any of the other ingredients of this medicine
- If you take other medicines which belong to a group called MAO inhibitors, including selegiline (used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease), moclobemide (used in the treatment of depression) and linezolid (an antibiotic)
- If you are born with or have had an episode of abnormal heart rhythm (seen at ECG; an examination to evaluate how the heart is functioning)
- If you take medicines for heart rhythm problems or that may affect the heart's rhythm.

b. Take special care with Exopex® ODT

- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking **Exopex®** ODT. Please tell your doctor if you have any other condition or illness, as your doctor may need to take this into consideration. **In particular, tell your doctor:**
- If you have History of bleeding disorders, or if you are pregnant.
  - If you have epilepsy. Treatment with escitalopram should be stopped if seizures occur for the first time, or if there is an increase in the seizure frequency.
  - If you suffer from impaired liver or kidney function. Your doctor may need to adjust your dosage.
  - If you have diabetes. Treatment with escitalopram may alter glycaemic control. Insulin and/or oral hypoglycaemic dosage may need to be adjusted
  - If you have a decreased level of sodium in the blood
  - If you have tendency to easily develop bleedings or bruises
  - If you are receiving electroconvulsive treatment
  - If you have coronary heart disease
  - If you suffer or have suffered from heart problems or have recently had a heart attack
  - If you have a low resting heart-rate and/or you know that you may have salt depletion as a result of prolonged severe diarrhea and vomiting (being sick) or usage of diuretics (water tablets)
  - If you experience a fast or irregular heartbeat, fainting, collapse or dizziness on standing up, which may indicate abnormal functioning of the heart rate
  - If you have or have previously had eye problems, such as certain kinds of glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye).

Please note:

- Some patients with manic-depressive illness may enter into a manic phase. This is characterized by unusual and rapidly changing ideas, inappropriate happiness and excessive physical activity. If you experience this, contact your doctor. Symptoms such as restlessness or difficulty to sit or stand still can also occur during the first weeks of the treatment. Tell your doctor immediately if you experience these symptoms, 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 may be increased 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 adults aged less than 25 years 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.

Children and adolescents

Escitalopram should normally not be used for children and adolescents under 18 years. Also, you should know that patients under 18 have an increased risk of side-effects such as suicide attempts, suicidal thoughts and hostility predominately aggression, oppositional behaviour and anger) when they take this class of medicines. Despite this, your doctor may prescribe escitalopram for patients under 18 because he/she decides that this is in their best interest.

If your doctor has prescribed escitalopram for a patient under 18 and you want to discuss this, please go back to your doctor. You should

inform your doctor if any symptoms listed above develop or worsen when patients under 18 are taking Escitalopram. Also, the long term safety effects concerning growth, maturation and cognitive and behavioural development of escitalopram in this age group have not yet been demonstrated.

c. Taking other medicines, herbal or dietary supplements

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- "Non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)", containing phenelzine, iproniazid, isocarboxazid, nialamide, and tranylcypromine as active ingredients. If you have taken any of these medicines you will need to wait 14 days before you start taking escitalopram. After stopping escitalopram you must allow 7 days before taking any of these medicines
- "Reversible, selective MAO-A inhibitors", containing moclobemide (used to treat depression)
- "Irreversible MAO-B inhibitors", containing selegiline (used to treat Parkinson's disease). These increase the risk of side effects:
- The antibiotic linezolid
- Lithium (used in the treatment of manic-depressive disorder) and tryptophan
- Imipramine and desipramine (both used to treat depression)
- Sumatriptan and similar medicines (used to treat migraine) and tramadol (used against severe pain). These increase the risk of side effects
- Cimetidine, lansoprazole and omeprazole (used to treat stomach ulcers), fluvoxamine (antidepressant) and ticlopidine (used to reduce the risk of stroke). These may cause increased blood levels of escitalopram

- St John's wort (hypericum perforatum) a herbal remedy used for depression
- Acetylsalicylic acid and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (medicines used for pain relief or to thin the blood, so called anticoagulants). These may increase bleeding-tendency
- Warfarin, dipyrdamole, and phenprocoumon (medicines used to thin the blood, so called anti-coagulant). Your doctor will probably check the coagulation time of your blood when starting and discontinuing escitalopram in order to verify that your dose of anti-coagulant is still adequate.

- Mefloquin (used to treat Malaria), bupropion (used to treat depression) and tramadol (used to treat severe pain) due to a possible risk of a lowered threshold for seizures
- Neuroleptics (medicines to treat schizophrenia, psychosis) and antidepressants (tricyclic antidepressants and SSRIs) due to a possible risk of a lowered threshold for seizures
- Flecainide, propafenone, and metoprolol (used in cardio-vascular diseases), domipramine, and nortriptyline (antidepressants) and risperidone, thioridazine, and haloperidol (antipsychotics). The dosage of escitalopram may need to be adjusted
- Medicines that decrease blood levels of potassium or magnesium as these conditions increase the risk of life-threatening heart rhythm disorder.

Do not take escitalopram if you take medicines for heart rhythm problems or medicines that may affect the heart's rhythm, such as Class (IA) and (III) antiarrhythmics, antipsychotics (e.g. phenothiazine derivatives, pimozide, haloperidol), tricyclic antidepressants, certain antimicrobial agents (e.g. sparfloxacin, moxifloxacin, erythromycin IV, pentamidine, anti-malarian treatment particularly halofantrine), certain antihistamines (astemizole, mizolastine).

If you have any further questions about this you should speak to your doctor.

d. Taking Exopex® ODT with food, drink and alcohol

As with many medicines, combining escitalopram with alcohol is not advisable, although escitalopram is not expected to interact with alcohol.

**Exopex®** ODT are taken every day as a single daily dose. You should take **Exopex®** ODT without food.

e. Pregnancy and breast-feeding

**Pregnancy:**  
Inform your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.

If you take **Exopex®** ODT 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 **Exopex®** ODT so they can advise you.

Do not take escitalopram if you are pregnant or breast-feeding, unless you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved.

If you take escitalopram during the last 3 months of your pregnancy you should be aware that the following effects may be seen in your newborn baby: trouble with breathing, blueish skin, fits, body temperature changes, feeding difficulties, vomiting, low blood sugar, stiff or floppy muscles, vivid reflexes, tremor, jitteriness, irritability, lethargy, constant crying, sleepiness and sleeping difficulties. If your newborn baby has any of these symptoms, please contact your doctor immediately. Make sure your midwife and/or doctor know you are on escitalopram. When taken during pregnancy, particularly in the last 3 months of pregnancy, medicines like escitalopram may increase the risk of a serious condition in babies, called persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN), making the baby breathe faster and appear bluish. These symptoms usually begin during the first 24 hours after the baby is born. If this happens to your baby you should contact your midwife and/or doctor immediately. If used during pregnancy, escitalopram should never be stopped abruptly.

Lactation:

It is expected that escitalopram will be excreted into breast milk.

Fertility:

Citalopram, a medicine like escitalopram, has been shown to reduce the quality of sperm in animal studies. Theoretically, this could affect fertility, but impact on human fertility has not been observed as yet.

f. Driving and using machines

You are advised not to drive a car or operate machinery until you know how escitalopram affects you.

3.How to take Exopex® ODT

Always take **Exopex®** ODT exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

**Exopex®** ODT are taken every day as a single daily dose. You should take **Exopex®** ODT without food. **Exopex®** ODT break easily, so you should handle the tablets carefully. Do not handle the tablets with wet hands as the tablets may break up.

Place the tablet on your tongue. The tablet will rapidly disintegrate and can be swallowed without water.

Adults:

Depression

The normally recommended dose of **Exopex®** ODT is 10 mg taken as one daily dose. The dose may be increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20 mg per day.

Panic disorder

The starting dose of **Exopex®** ODT is 5 mg as one daily dose for the first week before increasing the dose to 10 mg per day. The dose may be further increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20 mg per day.

Social anxiety disorder

The normally recommended dose of **Exopex®** ODT is 10 mg taken as one daily dose. Your doctor can either decrease your dose to 5 mg per day or increase the dose to a maximum of 20 mg per day, depending on how you respond to the medicine.

Generalised anxiety disorder

The normally recommended dose of **Exopex®** ODT is 10 mg taken as one daily dose. The dose may be increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20 mg per day.

Obsessive-Compulsive disorder

The normally recommended dose of **Exopex®** ODT is 10mg taken as one daily dose. The dose may be increased by your doctor to a maximum of 20mg per day.

Elderly patients (above 65 years of age):

The normally recommended starting dose of **Exopex®** ODT is 5 mg taken as a single daily dose. The dose may be increased by your doctor to 10 mg per day.

Children and adolescents:

**Exopex®** ODT should not normally be given to children and adolescents.

Duration of treatment:

- It may take a couple of weeks before you start to feel better. Continue to take **Exopex®** ODT even if it takes some time before you feel any improvement in your condition.
- Do not change the dose of your medicine without talking to your doctor first.
- Continue to take **Exopex®** ODT for as long as your doctor recommends. If you stop your treatment too soon, your symptoms may return. It is recommended that treatment should be continued for at least 6 months after you feel well again.

If you take more Exopex® ODT than you should

If you take more than the prescribed dose of **Exopex®** ODT, contact your doctor or nearest hospital emergency department immediately. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort. Some of the signs of an overdose could be dizziness, tremor, agitation, convulsion, coma, nausea, vomiting, change in heart rhythm, decreased blood pressure and change in body fluid/salt balance. Take **Exopex®** ODT box/container with you when you go to the doctor or hospital.

If you forget to take Exopex® ODT

Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten doses. If you do forget to take a dose, and you remember before you go to bed, take it straight away. Carry on as usual the next day. If you only remember during the night, or the next day, leave out the missed dose and carry on as usual.

- Do not stop taking **Exopex®** ODT until your doctor tells you to do so. When you have completed your course of treatment, it is generally advised that the dose of **Exopex®** ODT is gradually reduced over a number of weeks.

When you stop taking **Exopex®** ODT, especially if it is abruptly, you may feel discontinuation symptoms. These are common when treatment with **Exopex®** ODT is stopped. The risk is higher, when **Exopex®** ODT has been used for a long time or in high doses or when the dose is reduced too quickly.

- Most people find that the symptoms are mild and go away on their own within two weeks. However, in some patients they may be severe in intensity or they may be prolonged (2- 3 months or more). If you get severe discontinuation symptoms when you stop taking **Exopex®** ODT, please contact your doctor. He or she may ask you to start taking your tablets again and come off them more slowly.

- Discontinuation symptoms include: Feeling dizzy (unsteady or off balance), feelings like pins and needles, burning sensations and (less commonly) electric shock sensations, including in the head, sleep disturbances (vivid dreams, nightmares, inability to sleep), feeling anxious, headaches, feeling sick (nausea), sweating (including night sweats), feeling restless or agitated, tremor (shakiness), feeling confused or disorientated, feeling emotional or irritable, diarrhea (loose stools), visual disturbances, fluttering or pounding heartbeat (palpitations).

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4.Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

The side effects usually disappear after a few weeks of treatment. Please be aware that many of the effects may also be symptoms of your illness and therefore will improve when you start to get better.

If you experience any of the following symptoms you should contact your doctor or go to the hospital straight away:

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Unusual bleeds, including gastrointestinal bleeds

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Swelling of skin, tongue, lips, or face, or difficulties breathing or swallowing (allergic reaction)
- High fever, agitation, confusion, trembling and abrupt contractions of muscles these may be signs of a rare condition called serotonin syndrome.
- Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):
- Difficulties urinating
- Seizures (fits)
- Yellowing of the skin and the white in the eyes are signs of liver function impairment/hepatitis
- Fast, irregular heart beat, fainting which could be symptoms of a life threatening condition known as

Torsade de Pointes

- Thoughts of harming yourself or killing yourself
- In addition to above, the following side effects have been reported:
- Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people):
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Headache

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Blocked or runny nose (sinusitis)
- Decreased or increased appetite
- Anxiety, restlessness, abnormal dreams, difficulties falling asleep, feeling sleepy, dizziness, yawning, tremors, pricking of the skin
- Diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, dry mouth
- Increased sweating
- Pain in muscle and joints (arthralgia and myalgia)
- Sexual disturbances (delayed ejaculation, problems with erection, decreased sexual drive and women may experience difficulties achieving orgasm)

- Fatigue, fever

- Increased weight

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Nettle rash (urticaria), rash, itching (pruritus)
- Grinding one's teeth, agitation, nervousness, panic attack, confusion
- Disturbed sleep, taste disturbance, fainting (syncope)
- Enlarged pupils (mydriasis), visual disturbance, ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
- Loss of hair
- Excessive menstrual bleeding
- Irregular menstrual period
- Decreased weight
- Fast heart beat
- Swelling of the arms or legs
- Nosebleeds

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Aggression, depersonalisation, hallucination
- Slow heart beat

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth (postpartum haemorrhage).
- Decreased levels of sodium in the blood (the symptoms are feeling sick and unwell with weak muscles or confused)
- Dizziness when you stand up due to low blood pressure (orthostatic hypotension)
- Abnormal liver function test (increased amounts of liver enzymes in the blood)
- Movement disorders (involuntary movements of the muscles)
- Painful erections (priapism)
- Signs of increased bleeding e.g. from skin and mucous (ecchymosis)
- Sudden swelling of skin or mucus (angioedemas)
- Increase in the amount of urine excreted (inappropriate ADH secretion)
- Flow of milk in men and in women that are not nursing
- Mania
- An increased risk of bone fractures has been observed in patients taking this type of medicines
- Alteration of the heart rhythm (called "prolongation of QT interval", seen on ECG, electrical activity of the heart)

In addition, a number of side effects are known to occur with drugs that work in a similar way to escitalopram (the active ingredient of **Exopex®** ODT). These are:

- Motor restlessness (akathisia)
- Anorexia

If any of the side effects gets serious or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5.How to store Exopex® ODT

-Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

-Do not store above 30°C.

-Do not use **Exopex®** ODT after the expiry date which is stated on the carton after Exp. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

-**Exopex®** ODT does not require any special storage conditions.

-Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6.Further information

a. What Exopex® ODT, contains:

The active substance is: Escitalopram.

**Exopex®** ODT, 5: Each orodispersible tablet contains 5 mg Escitalopram in packs of 30 tablets.

**Exopex®** ODT, 10: Each orodispersible tablet contains 10 mg Escitalopram in packs of 30 tablets.

**Exopex®** ODT, 15: Each orodispersible tablet contains 15 mg Escitalopram in packs of 30 tablets.

**Exopex®** ODT, 20: Each orodispersible tablet contains 20 mg Escitalopram in packs of 30 tablets.

The other ingredients are:

Polacrillin potassium, Hydrochloric acid, concentrated, lactose monohydrate (spray-dried), Cellulose, microcrystalline, Croscarmellose sodium, Acesulfame potassium, Neohesperidin dihydrochalcone, Flavor peppermint, Magnesium stearate.

b. What Exopex® ODT looks like and contents of the pack

-Pharmaceutical form: Orodispersible Tablets

-Physical Description:

**Exopex®** ODT, 5, 10, 15, 20 mg : White to off-white, round, flat tablets with beveled edges engraved with TQ on one side and plain on the other side.

**Exopex®** ODT, 5, 10, 15, 20 mg: Alu-Alu Blister.

c. Marketing Authorisation Holder

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d. This leaflet was last approved in 05 / 2021; version number I-ExopexODT-EXX-1M0-R2/AE

This is a medicament

- A medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament.
- The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor
- Keep medicament out of the reach of children.

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