

Prescribing tips for Citalopram

There is a range of citalopram preparations available, including tablets and oral drops. An up-to-date listing is freely available on the Irish Medicines Board website at www.imb.ie

Depression: Dosing & Administration

Full prescribing information is available in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), which may be accessed freely online at www.imb.ie and www.medicines.ie

Please consult individual SmPCs for guidance on prescribing for other indications and in special patient populations, e.g. hepatic failure.

Dosing and administration of citalopram (tablets)

	Starting Dose	Maximum Daily Dose
Adults (18-65 years)	20 mg daily	40 mg
Elderly (>65 years)	10 mg daily	20 mg

Comment: May be taken at any time of the day with or without food.

Important Prescribing Information

Onset of Action In clinical practice, an antidepressant effect in an individual is usually seen by 2 weeks. In individuals in whom no antidepressant effect is evident after 3-4 weeks, a change in dose or drug is indicated.

Duration of Treatment A single episode of depression should be treated for a minimum of 6 months after recovery. If antidepressant therapy is stopped immediately on recovery, 50% of patients may experience a return of their depressive symptoms.

QT Interval prolongation

- Citalopram is contraindicated in patients with known QT interval prolongation or congenital long QT syndrome.
- Citalopram is contraindicated with medicinal products that are known to prolong the QT interval.
- Caution is advised in patients at higher risk of developing Torsade de Pointes, e.g. patients with congestive heart failure, myocardial infarction, bradyarrhythmias or a predisposition to hypokalaemia or hypomagnesaemia.

Medicines that prolong the QT interval – avoid with citalopram

- Antihistamines: Astemizole, mizolastine.
- Anti-malarials: Halofantrine, quinine.
- Atypical antipsychotics: Amisulpiride, sertindole.
- Antipsychotics: Pimozide, haloperidol.
- Class IA antiarrhythmics: Flecainide, lidocaine, quinidine.
- Class III antiarrhythmics: Amiodarone, dronedarone, sotalolol.
- Tricyclic antidepressants: Amitriptyline, clomipramine, dosulepin, doxepin, imipramine, lofepramine, nortriptyline, trimipramine.
- Quinolone: Moxifloxacin.

This list is not exhaustive and is intended to serve as guidance only. Prescribers should consult appropriate prescribing and drug interaction information for further guidance.