Philozac® Hard Gelatin Capsules

fluoxetine 10 mg, 20 mg

1- NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT
Philozac® 10 or 20 mg Hard Gelatin Capsules
2- QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION
20 mg Hard Gelatin capsule
Each hard gelatin capsule contains 22.36 mg of fluoxetine hydrochloride equivalent to 20 mg fluoxetine base.
Excipients: Maize starch, Anhydrous Monohydrate, Pregel Maize starch, Crospovidone, Magnesium stearate, Purified Talc.
Capsule shell:
Body: Titanium dioxide E171, Gelatin (bovine origin)
Cap: Indigotine - FD&C Blue 2, Quinoline yellow E104, Titanium dioxide E171, Gelatin (bovine origin)
10 mg capsule
Each capsule body contains of fluoxetine hydrochloride equivalent to 10 mg fluoxetine
Excipients: Maize starch, Dimethicone, Lactose monohydrate, Povidone 51, Magnesium stearate, purified Talc.
Each capsule shell contains: cap: Gelatin Titanium Dioxide, Patent Blue, Yellow color
Body: Gelatin, Titanium Dioxide, Patent Blue, Yellow Color
3- PHARMACEUTICAL FORM
Hard Gelatin capsules
4- CLINICAL PARTICULARS
4.1 Therapeutic indications
Adults:
- Major depressive episodes
- Obsessive compulsive disorder
- Bulimia nervosa. Fluoxetine is indicated as an complement of psychotherapy for the reduction of binge-eating and purging activity.

Children and adolescents aged 8 years and above:
Major depressive disorders, if depression is unresponsive to psychological therapy after 4–6 sessions.
Antidepressant medication should be offered to a child or young person with moderate to severe depression only in combination with a concurrent psychological therapy.
4.2 Posology and method of administration for oral administration only
Major depressive episodes
Adults and older people: The recommended dose is 20 mg daily. Dosage should be reviewed and adjusted if necessary within 3 to 4 weeks of initiation of therapy and thereafter as judged clinically appropriate. Although there may be an increased potential for undesirable effects at higher doses, in some patients, with insufficient response to 20 mg, the dose may be increased gradually up to a maximum of 60 mg. Dosage adjustments should be made carefully on an individual basis, to maintain the patient at the lowest effective dose. Patients with depression should be treated for a sufficient period of at least 6 months to ensure that they are free from symptoms.
Children and adolescents
Adults and older people: The recommended dose is 20 mg daily. Although there may be an increased potential for undesirable effects at higher doses, in some patients, if after two weeks there is insufficient response to 20 mg, the dose may be increased gradually up to a maximum of 60 mg. If no improvement is observed within 10 weeks, treatment with fluoxetine should be reconsidered. If a good therapeutic response has been obtained, treatment can be continued at a dosage adjusted on an individual basis. While there are no systematic studies to answer the question of how long to continue fluoxetine treatment, OCD is a chronic condition and it is reasonable to consider continuation beyond 10 weeks in responding patients. Dosage adjustments should be made carefully on an individual patient basis, to maintain the patient at the lowest effective dose. The need for treatment should be reassessed periodically. Some clinicians advocate concomitant behavioral therapy for those patients who have done well on pharmacotherapy. Long-term efficacy (more than 24 weeks) has not been demonstrated in OCD.
Bulimia nervosa
Adults and older people: A dose of 60 mg/day is recommended. Long-term efficacy (more than 1 month) has not been demonstrated in bulimia nervosa.
4.3 Indications
Adults: The recommended dose may be increased or decreased. Doses above 80 mg/day have not been systematically evaluated. Fluoxetine may be administered as a single or divided dose, during or between meals.
Children and adolescents aged 8 years and above: 10 mg daily for the first two weeks. This should be borne in mind when starting or stopping treatment.
Children and adolescents aged 8 years and above (major depressive disorder):
Treatment should be initiated and monitored under specialist supervision. The starting dose is 10 mg/day. Dose adjustments should be made carefully, as an individual basis, to maintain the patient at the lowest effective dose.
After one to two weeks, the dose may be increased to 20 mg/day. Clinical trial experience with daily doses greater than 20 mg is limited. There is only limited data on treatment beyond 9 weeks.
Lower-weight children: Due to higher plasma levels in lower-weight children, the therapeutic effect may be achieved with lower doses. For pediatric patients who respond to treatment, the need for continued treatment after 6 months should be assessed at regular clinical benefit is achieved within 9 weeks, treatment should be reconsidered.
Older people
Caution is recommended when increasing the dose and the daily dose should generally not exceed 40 mg. Maximum recommended dose is 60 mg/day. A lower or less frequent dose (eg, 20 mg every second day) should be considered in patients with hepatic impairment, or in patients where concomitant medication has the potential for interaction with fluoxetine. Elderly patients with Dementia -related Psychosis treated with atypical antipsychotic drugs are at increased risk of death
Withdrawal symptoms seen on discontinuation of fluoxetine
Discontinuation symptoms are common when discontinuing treatment with fluoxetine the dose should be gradually reduced over a period of at least one to two weeks to reduce the risk of withdrawal reactions.
If intolerable symptoms occur following a decrease in the dose or upon discontinuation of treatment, then resuming the previously prescribed dose may be considered. Subsequently, the physician may continue decreasing the dose, but at a more gradual rate.
4.3 Contraindications
Hypersensitivity to fluoxetine or to any of the excipients.
Concomitant use of MAOIs: Serious and sometimes fatal reactions have been reported in patients receiving an SSRI in combination with a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI), and in patients who have recently discontinued an SSRI and have been started on a MAOI. Treatment of fluoxetine should only be started 2 weeks after discontinuation of an irreversible MAOI and the following day after discontinuation of a reversible MAOI. A, some cases presented with features resembling serotonin syndrome (which may resemble and be diagnosed as neuroleptic malignant syndrome). Cyproheptadine or dantrolene may benefit patients experiencing such reactions. Symptoms of a drug interaction with a MAOI include: hyperthermia, rigidity, myoclonus, autonomic instability with possible rapid fluctuations of vital signs, mental status changes that include confusion, irritability and extreme agitation progressing to delirium and coma. Therefore, fluoxetine is contra-indicated in combination with a non-selective MAOI. Similarly, at least 5 weeks should elapse after discontinuing fluoxetine treatment before starting a MAOI. If fluoxetine has been prescribed chronically and/or at a high dose, a longer interval should be considered. Due to the long elimination half-life of fluoxetine, at least 5 weeks should be allowed after discontinuing fluoxetine before starting treatment with a MAOI (see section 4.5). Linezolid is a reversible non-selective MAOI and should not be given in combination with fluoxetine. Intravenous methylene blue is also a MAOI and should not be given in combination with fluoxetine. Reversible and selective MAOIs (e.g. moclobemide) may be given in combination with fluoxetine provided that there are facilities for close observation of symptoms of serotonin syndrome and monitoring of blood pressure.
4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use
Use in children and adolescents from 0–17 years of age: Suicide-related behaviours (suicide attempt and suicidal thoughts) and hostility (predominantly aggression, oppositional behavior and anger) were more frequently observed in clinical trials among children and adolescents treated with antidepressants compared to those treated with placebo. Fluoxetine should only be used in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above for the treatment of major depressive episodes and it should not be used in children and adolescents under the age of 8 years unless in conjunction with a concurrent psychological therapy. If the decision to treat is taken, patients should be closely monitored for the appearance of suicidality, as well as on safety in children and adolescents, including effects on growth, sexual maturation and cognitive, emotional and behavioral developments. In a 19-week clinical trial, decreased height and weight gain was observed in children and adolescents treated with fluoxetine. It has not been established whether there is an effect on achieving normal adult height. The possibility of a delay in puberty cannot be ruled out. Growth and pubertal development (height, weight, and TANNER staging) should therefore be monitored during and after treatment with fluoxetine. If either is slowed, referral to a pediatrician should be considered. In pediatric trials, mania and hypomania were commonly reported. Therefore, regular monitoring for the occurrence of mania/hypomania is recommended. Fluoxetine should be discontinued in any patient entering a manic phase. It is important that the prescriber discusses carefully the risks and benefits of treatment with the child/young person and/or their parents.
Cases of bleeding abnormalities have been reported with SSRIs, including ecchymosis, hematoma, epistaxis, and life-threatening hemorrhage. Concomitant use of aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, warfarin, and other oral anticoagulants may increase the risk of bleeding events. Concomitant use of atypical antipsychotics and phenothiazines, tricyclic antidepressants and fluoxetine may increase the risk of bleeding events. Patients should be cautioned about the risk of bleeding associated with the concomitant use of fluoxetine and NSAIDs or aspirin or other drugs that affect coagulation.
Seizures: Seizures are a potential risk with antidepressant drugs. Therefore, as with other antidepressants, fluoxetine should be introduced cautiously in patients who have a history of seizures. Treatment should be discontinued in any patient who develops seizures or where there is an increase in seizure frequency. Fluoxetine should be avoided in patients with unstable epilepsy and patients with controlled epilepsy should be carefully monitored.
Mania: Antidepressants should be used with caution in patients with a history of mania/hypomania. As with all antidepressants, fluoxetine should be discontinued in any patient entering a manic phase.
Diabetes: In patients with diabetes, treatment with an SSRI may affect glycemic control. Hypoglycemia has occurred during therapy with fluoxetine and hyperglycemia has developed following discontinuation. Insulin and/or oral hypoglycemic dosage may need to be adjusted.
Suicidal/suicidal thoughts or clinical worsening: Depression is associated with increased risk of suicidal thoughts, self-harm and suicide (suicide-related events). This risk persists until significant remission occurs. As improvement may not occur during the first few weeks or more of treatment, patients should be closely monitored until such improvement occurs. It is general clinical experience that the risk of suicide may increase in the early stages of recovery. Other psychiatric conditions for which fluoxetine is prescribed can also be associated with an increased risk of suicide-related events. In addition these conditions may be co-morbid with major depressive disorder. The precautions observed in the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder should therefore also be observed when treating patients with other psychiatric disorders. Patients with a history of suicide-related events, those exhibiting a significant degree of suicidal ideation prior to commencement of treatment are known to be at greater risk of suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts, and should receive careful monitoring during treatment. A meta-analysis of placebo-controlled clinical trials of antidepressant drugs in adult patients with psychiatric disorders showed an increased risk of suicidal behavior with antidepressants compared to placebo in patients less than 25 years old. Close supervision of patients, and those at high risk, should accompany drug therapy especially in early treatment, and following dose changes. Patients (and caregivers of patients) should be alerted about the need to monitor for the emergence of such events and to seek medical advice immediately if these symptoms present.
Akathisia: The use of fluoxetine has been associated with the development of akathisia, characterized by a subjectively unpleasant or distressing restlessness and need to move often accompanied by an inability to sit or stand still. This is most likely to occur within the first few weeks of treatment. In patients who develop these symptoms, increasing the dose may be detrimental.
Withdrawal symptoms seen on discontinuation of fluoxetine: Withdrawal symptoms when treatment is discontinued is common, particularly if discontinuation is abrupt. In clinical trials, adverse events seen on treatment discontinuation occurred in approximately 60% of patients in both the fluoxetine and placebo groups. Of these adverse events, 17% in the fluoxetine group and 12% in the placebo group were severe in nature. The risk of withdrawal symptoms may be dependent on several factors including the duration and dose of therapy and the rate of dose reduction. Dizziness, sensory disturbances (including paraesthesia), sleep disturbances (including insomnia and intense dreams), asthenia, agitation or anxiety, nausea and/or vomiting, tremor and headache are the most commonly reported reactions. Generally, these events are mild to moderate and are self-limiting, however, in some patients they may be severe and/or prolonged. It is therefore advised that when fluoxetine treatment is no longer required, gradual discontinuation by dose tapering should be carried out.
Children and adolescents (see sections 4.4 and 5.1):
Additional adverse reactions have been observed specifically in this population and are described below.
In pediatric clinical trials, suicide-related behaviours (suicide attempt and suicidal thoughts), and hostility were more frequently observed among children and adolescents treated with antidepressants compared to those treated with placebo. Manic reactions, including mania and hypomania, were reported (2.0% of fluoxetine treated patients vs. 0% in placebo controls), leading to discontinuation in the majority of cases. These patients had no prior episodes of hypomania/mania. Epistaxis was observed more frequently in children and adolescents treated with fluoxetine (4.0%) than in placebo controls (1.0%). Laboratory test abnormalities, vital sign changes, and ECG changes were unremarkable. Isolated cases of adverse events potentially indicating delayed sexual maturation or sexual dysfunction have been reported from pediatric clinical use.
4.9 Overdose
Cases of overdose of fluoxetine alone usually have a mild course. Symptoms of overdose have included nausea, vomiting, seizures, cardiovascular dysfunction ranging from asymptomatic arrhythmias (including nodal rhythm and ventricular arrhythmias) or ECG changes indicative of QTc prolongation to cardiac arrest (including very rare cases of torsade de Pointes), pulmonary dysfunction, and signs of altered CNS status ranging from excitation to coma. Fatality attributed to overdose of fluoxetine alone is rare. Fatal outcomes have been reported in association with overdose of fluoxetine and other psychotropic drugs. Patients should be encouraged to report any overdose immediately to their fluoxetine are unlikely to be of benefit. Activated charcoal which may be used with sorbitol, may be as or more effective than emesis or lavage. In managing overdosage, consider the possibility of multiple drug involvement. An extended time for close medical observation may be needed in patients who have taken excessive quantities of a tricyclic antidepressant if they are also taking, or have recently taken, fluoxetine.
5- PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES
5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antidepressant, Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor
Fluoxetine is a selective inhibitor of serotonin reuptake, and this probably accounts for the mechanism of action. Fluoxetine has practically no affinity to other receptors such as α1-, α2-, and β-adrenergic; serotonergic; dopaminergic; histaminergic; muscarinic; and GABA receptors.
Major depressive episodes: Clinical trials in patients with major depressive episodes have been conducted versus placebo and active controls. Fluoxetine has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 50% decrease in the HAM-D score) and remission, compared to placebo.
Obsessive-compulsive disorder: In short-term trials (under 24 weeks), fluoxetine was shown to be significantly more effective than placebo. There was a therapeutic effect at 20 mg/day, but higher doses (40 or 60 mg/day) showed a higher response rate. In long-term studies (three short-term studies extension phase and a relapse prevention study), efficacy has not been shown. Fluoxetine is not effective in obsessive-compulsive disorder.
Fluoxetine 60 mg/day was shown to be significantly more effective than placebo for the reduction of bingeing and purging activities. However, for long term efficacy no conclusions can be drawn.
Major depressive episodes in children and adolescents: Clinical trials in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above have been conducted versus placebo. Fluoxetine, at a dose of 20 mg has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Children's Depression Rating Scale-Revised (CDRS-R), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 40% decrease in the CDRS-R score) and remission, compared to placebo.
In the second study, with intermittent brief phase dosing 20 mg daily for 14 days) for 5 cycles, improvement was observed in the primary efficacy parameter (Daily Record of Severity of Problems score). However, definitive conclusions on efficacy and duration of treatment cannot be drawn from these studies.
Major depressive episodes (children and adolescents): Clinical trials in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above have been conducted versus placebo. Fluoxetine, at a dose of 20 mg has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Children's Depression Rating Scale-Revised (CDRS-R), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 40% decrease in the CDRS-R score) and remission, compared to placebo.
In the second study, with intermittent brief phase dosing 20 mg daily for 14 days) for 5 cycles, improvement was observed in the primary efficacy parameter (Daily Record of Severity of Problems score). However, definitive conclusions on efficacy and duration of treatment cannot be drawn from these studies.
Major depressive episodes (children and adolescents): Clinical trials in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above have been conducted versus placebo. Fluoxetine, at a dose of 20 mg has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Children's Depression Rating Scale-Revised (CDRS-R), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 40% decrease in the CDRS-R score) and remission, compared to placebo.
In the second study, with intermittent brief phase dosing 20 mg daily for 14 days) for 5 cycles, improvement was observed in the primary efficacy parameter (Daily Record of Severity of Problems score). However, definitive conclusions on efficacy and duration of treatment cannot be drawn from these studies.
Obsessive-compulsive disorder: In short-term trials (under 24 weeks), fluoxetine was shown to be significantly more effective than placebo. There was a therapeutic effect at 20 mg/day, but higher doses (40 or 60 mg/day) showed a higher response rate. In long-term studies (three short-term studies extension phase and a relapse prevention study), efficacy has not been shown. Fluoxetine is not effective in obsessive-compulsive disorder.
Fluoxetine 60 mg/day was shown to be significantly more effective than placebo for the reduction of bingeing and purging activities. However, for long term efficacy no conclusions can be drawn.
Major depressive episodes in children and adolescents: Clinical trials in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above have been conducted versus placebo. Fluoxetine, at a dose of 20 mg has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Children's Depression Rating Scale-Revised (CDRS-R), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 40% decrease in the CDRS-R score) and remission, compared to placebo.
In the second study, with intermittent brief phase dosing 20 mg daily for 14 days) for 5 cycles, improvement was observed in the primary efficacy parameter (Daily Record of Severity of Problems score). However, definitive conclusions on efficacy and duration of treatment cannot be drawn from these studies.
Major depressive episodes (children and adolescents): Clinical trials in children and adolescents aged 8 years and above have been conducted versus placebo. Fluoxetine, at a dose of 20 mg has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Children's Depression Rating Scale-Revised (CDRS-R), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 40% decrease in the CDRS-R score) and remission, compared to placebo.
In the second study, with intermittent brief phase dosing 20 mg daily for 14 days) for 5 cycles, improvement was observed in the primary efficacy parameter (Daily Record of Severity of Problems score). However, definitive conclusions on efficacy and duration of treatment cannot be drawn from these studies.
Major depressive episodes: Clinical trials in patients with major depressive episodes have been conducted versus placebo and active controls. Fluoxetine has been shown to be significantly more effective than placebo as measured by the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HAM-D), in these studies, fluoxetine produced a significantly higher rate of response (defined by a 50% decrease in the HAM-D score) and remission, compared to placebo