

Celecoxib

Celecoxib (Celebrex) is an anti-inflammatory medicine which reduces pain (also called an NSAID, similar to Motrin, Aleve and ibuprofen). It also reduces depression, in both bipolar and non-bipolar depression, and this effect has been demonstrated in over 10 well-designed studies.

How it works

Celecoxib reduces inflammatory compounds in the body which are known to cause depression.

How should I take it?

It can be taken once or twice a day and may be better tolerated if taken with food.

What if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, wait until the next evening to take your next dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

How long do I need to take it?

It can take 4-6 weeks to work. Talk to us about when to stop it as this will depend on your history and response to it.

What happens if I stop it?

There are no known withdrawal problems from stopping it.

Side effects

Celecoxib was well-tolerated and did not cause significant problems or side effects in any of the psychiatric studies. However, there are important risks that are associated with long-term use of the drug, and these risks are associated with all the drugs in this nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) class:

Heart attacks, stroke: increased risk of heart attacks and stroke. This risk may increase with duration of use. Those with heart disease are at higher risk.

Stomach ulcers: increased risk of stomach problems, including bleeding and ulcers. These events can occur at any time during use and without warning symptoms. This risk is higher

Key Points

1. Celecoxib is well-tolerated but has important medical risks with long term use.
2. The risk of stomach ulcers can be reduced by taking it with a proton-pump inhibitor

in the elderly. This risk can be reduced by taking it with a medicine that lowers acid in the stomach.

Renal impairment: increased risk of kidney problems.

Interactions

Celecoxib has a few significant drug interactions (most importantly, it can raise lithium levels). If you are starting a new drug you can check for interactions at: reference.medscape.com/drug-interactionchecker

How to store and dispose of medication

- Keep out of the reach of children.
- Store away from heat, direct light and damp places.
- To safely dispose of unwanted pills: Do not pour in the toilet or sink (it will enter the water supply). To prevent children or pets from eating it, mix unwanted pills in a bag with a little water and inedible trash (such as coffee grounds or kitty litter) and throw in the trash.

Cost and insurance coverage

Celecoxib is available as a generic. If you are paying for it out-of-pocket, you may find the lowest price at Costco (and you don't have to be a member to use their pharmacy) or through www.goodrx.com.

Quick facts

Brand	Celebrex
Dose range	100-400mg/day
Sizes	Caps: 50, 100, 200, 400mg
Release date	12/31/1998
FDA-approval	Acute pain, arthritis, menstrual symptoms

—Chris Aiken, MD, updated 11/25/2015

Acknowledgement of Risk with Alcohol and Celecoxib

I understand that I must not drink alcohol while taking celecoxib (Celebrex). Drinking alcohol during treatment with celecoxib (Celebrex) has been shown to increase the risk of severe low blood pressure and fainting (loss of consciousness).

- If I feel lightheaded or dizzy, I will lie down right away and seek medical help if these symptoms do not go away.
- If I faint (lose consciousness), I will tell my healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- I understand that I should only take Celebrex at bedtime.
- If I miss a dose, I will skip the missed dose. I will take my next dose the next day at bedtime.

I understand the instructions that my healthcare provider has given to me.