

ADVERTISEMENT



Humalog® (100 units/mL) is an insulin analog indicated to improve glycemic control in adults and children with diabetes mellitus.

Important Safety Information for Humalog

Contraindications

- Humalog is contraindicated during episodes of hypoglycemia and in patients who are hypersensitive to Humalog or any of its excipients.

[Prescribing Information](#)

[Patient Information](#)

[Resource Centers](#) | [CME/CE](#) | [Medical Economics](#) | [Careers](#) | [Community](#)

Drug Topics

Voice of the Pharmacist



Enter your keyword

ModernMedicine

R

- [Home](#)
- [Issues & Trends](#)
- [Continuing Education](#)
- [Professional](#)
- [Product Updates/Clinical](#)
- [Health System](#)
- [Regulatory & Legal](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Commentary & Feedback](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Inside Drug Topics](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Share](#) | [Save](#) | [License](#)



FDA Safety Alert: Abnormal heart rhythms associated with high doses of citalopram hydrobromide

Aug 25, 2011
By: [From staff reports](#)
Drug Topics

Drug Topics

FDA has notified healthcare professionals and patients that the antidepressant citalopram hydrobromide (Celexa, Forest Laboratories) should no longer be used at doses greater than 40 mg per day because it can cause abnormal changes in the electrical activity of the heart.

Changes in the electrical activity of the heart (prolongation of the QT interval of the electrocardiogram [ECG]) can lead to an abnormal heart rhythm (including Torsade de Pointes), which can be fatal. Patients at particular risk for developing prolongation of the QT interval include those with underlying heart conditions and those who are predisposed to low levels of potassium and magnesium in the blood.

Studies did not show a benefit in the treatment of depression at doses higher than 40 mg per day. Previously, the citalopram drug label stated that certain patients may require a dose of 60 mg per day. The citalopram drug label has been revised to include the new drug dosage and usage recommendations, as well as information about the potential for QT interval prolongation and Torsade de Pointes. See the FDA Drug Safety Communication Data Summary for additional information. (See below.)

“Citalopram has only been approved by FDA for the treatment of depression,” said Timothy Hudd, BS, PharmD, RPh, AE-C, assistant professor of pharmacy practice, School of Pharmacy-Boston, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, Boston. “The recommended dosing range for this indication is 20 mg to 40 mg. Doses above 40 mg have not been shown to consistently provide much benefit for this indication and are generally not recommended.”

However, Dr Hudd told *Drug Topics*, citalopram has a number of off-label uses such as treatment of obsessive-compulsive and panic disorders, “where the upper dosing limit is sometimes stretched to 40 mg to 60 mg. It is important to remember these doses have not been officially approved by FDA,” he said. “Both patients and clinicians should approach off-label prescribing with caution.”

FIND MORE AT
Modern Medicine
[Register](#) | [More Info](#)
(it's free)



- DRUG**
FDA
- > [FDA](#)
 - > [Is the](#)
 - > [Amer](#)
 - > [Recal](#)
 - >

- [Pharmacy](#)

- [Clinical Pharmacology](#)

- [Coding Counselor](#)

- [Managed Care & Medicare Part D](#)

- [CME/CE Centers](#)

- [Patient Education](#)

- [View All Topics](#)

Citalopram is in a class of antidepressants called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs).

Healthcare professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products to FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:

- Complete and submit the report online: www.fda.gov/MedWatch/report.htm/
- [Download form](#) or call (800) 332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return it to the address on the preaddressed form or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178

Read the MedWatch safety alert, including a link to the FDA Drug Safety Communication, at: [Celexa Safety Alert](#).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

From staff reports

[Articles by From staff reports](#)

[Bionc of Me](#)
[Clear Adva](#)

S

Do:
pres

- Y
- N

Drug Mode
 desig
 physi
Regi:

Keep
 opinic

ADVERTISEMENT



Humalog® (100 units/mL) is an insulin analog indicated to improve glycemic control in adults and children with diabetes mellitus.

Important Saf

Contraindications
 • Humalog is contra hypoglycemia and hypersensitive to excipients.
Prescribing Inform

Modern Medicine is a new online resource designed to meet the evolving needs of physicians. It brings together elements from Advanstar's trusted healthcare journals along with powerful tools, resources, decision support and advisory functions.



[Home](#) | [Past Issues](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Subscribe / Renew](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Linking and RSS Policy](#)

© 2011 Advanstar Communications. All rights reserved.
Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited.
Please send any technical comments or questions to our webmaster.