















Active ingredients (generic names)	<div><div>MIRTAZAPINE (mir-taz-a-peen)</div><div></div></div>
What it is used for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major depression• Helping people with depression to sleep
How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blocks specific receptors in the brain to improve the effects of serotonin and noradrenaline<ul style="list-style-type: none">▸ Serotonin helps control mood, emotions, eating and sleep▸ Noradrenaline helps control energy, motivation, alertness and sleep• People who are depressed and sad may not have enough of these• Mirtazapine stops serotonin and noradrenaline going inside nerve cells so there is more left in the brain to help patient with building spirit and being strong again
Side effects	<div><div><div>Weight gain</div></div><div><div>Sleepy</div></div><div><div>Swollen ankles</div></div></div>

 <p>Warnings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipolar disorder <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Pregnant</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Breastfeeding</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Children and teenagers</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Epilepsy (fits)</p> </div> </div> <p>Interactions — Do not use together without medical consult</p> <p>MIRTAZAPINE with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbamazepine • Fluvoxamine • Phenytoin • MAOI antidepressants • Phenelzine • Tranylcypromine
<p>Tell the patient</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May take about 4 weeks for full effect, but you should start to feel a bit better after 1–2 weeks • Do not stop medicine suddenly — may get withdrawal symptoms. See <i>AMH</i> for details <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Do not stop taking medicine</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Do not drink alcohol (grog) medicine increases the effects</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Return to clinic if you feel worse</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Do not drive or operate machinery if sleepy</p> </div> </div> <p>Warning stickers (page 310): 1, 9, 13, non-disintegrating tablet also A</p>
<p>Check</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient after first few weeks of treatment, especially if young • Mental health assessment