

Consumer Update

Nov 2021

Venlafaxine and risk of serious discontinuation symptoms

EDA performs label update to include the following:

Warning & PERCAUTION

Discontinuation Syndrome

There have been post marketing reports of serious discontinuation symptoms which can be protracted and severe. **Completed suicide, suicidal thoughts, aggression and violent behavior have been observed in patients during reduction in dosage, including during discontinuation. Other post marketing reports describe visual changes (such as blurred vision or trouble focusing) and increased blood pressure after stopping or reducing the dose of Venlafaxin.**

If intolerable symptoms occur following a decrease in the dose or upon discontinuation of treatment, then resuming the previously prescribed dose maybe considered. Subsequently, the healthcare provider may continue decreasing the dose, but at a more gradual rate. **In some patients, discontinuation may need to occur over a period of several months**

Do not stop Venlafaxin without first talking to your healthcare provider. Stopping Venlafaxin too quickly or changing from another antidepressant too quickly may cause serious symptoms. Symptoms may include the following **(some of which can be severe and last for a long time): anxiety, irritability, aggressiveness, violent behavior problems with eyesight such as blurred vision or trouble focusing increased blood pressure**

References: FDA ([Click here](#))