

Gepirone (Exxua)

Gepirone is a unique antidepressant that also treats anxiety. It is similar to the anti-anxiety medication buspirone.

Gepirone can also reduce sexual side effects of serotonin antidepressants such as SSRIs.

How it works

Gepirone enhances serotonin transmission at the 5-HT_{1A} receptor, which is different from the serotonin receptors that SSRI antidepressants act on.

How should I take it?

Gepirone is taken once daily with food.

What if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule.

How long do I need to take it?

How long you take gepirone will depend on the reason you started it.

What happens if I stop it?

Gepirone is not addictive and does not cause withdrawal symptoms.

Side effects

Gepirone is generally well tolerated and does not cause weight gain, concentration problems or sexual side effects.

These side effects tend to improve with time (approx 1 week) or by lowering the dose:

Dizziness, nausea, insomnia, gastrointestinal discomfort.

Pregnancy: Gepirone has not been adequately evaluated during pregnancy.

Risks

Rarely, gepirone can cause cardiac arrhythmias by lengthening the QTc interval in the heartbeat. People with prolonged QTc should not take gepirone.

Interactions

Grapefruit can increase levels of gepirone. Gepirone should not be taken with MAOI antidepressants. It does not interact with over-the-counter medications and has few other drug interactions. The web sites below help you check for drug interactions. You should talk with us about the information you find as many drug interactions have only a mild effect:

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

Gepirone is only available as a brand. If you are paying out-of-pocket, the lowest cost is usually found at GoodRx.com.

Gepirone

Brands	Exxua
Dose range	18.2-72.6 mg/day
Sizes	Tabs: 18.2, 36.3, 54.5, 72.6 mg
Release date	9/28/2023
FDA-approval	Major Depressive Disorder

—Chris Aiken, MD, updated 7/16/2025