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'Point du Carrousel' by Barbara Warren, 1954 (Oil on canvas, 25.1 x 35.6cm)
From the Collection at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin 8.
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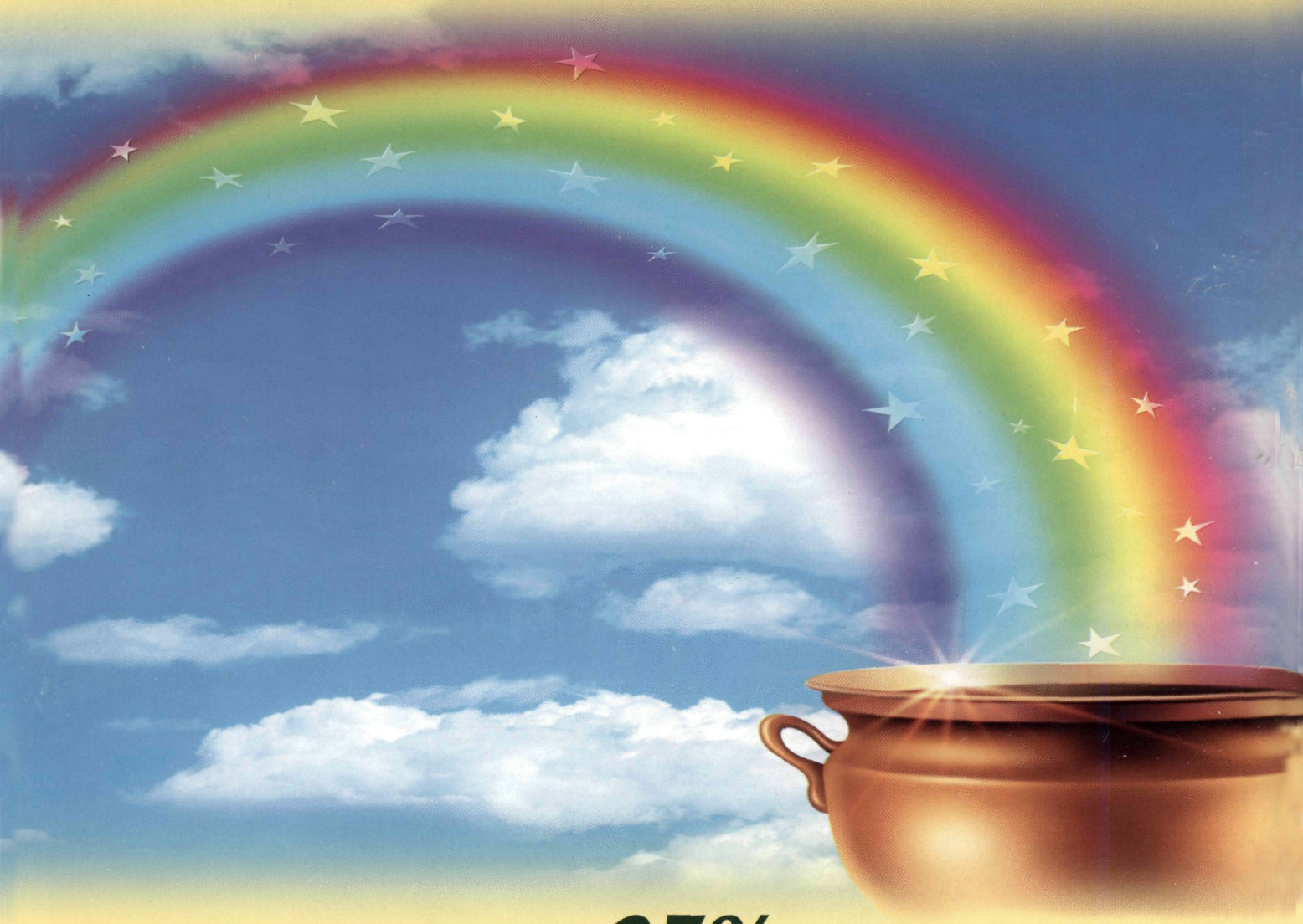
A brighter outlook for prescribers of fluoxetine



The original brand? - 25% more expensive.[1]

Is it time to change?

NEW

GeroZac®

fluoxetine

A more affordable therapy in the treatment of depression

GERARD LABORATORIES

GEROZAC: (fluoxetine HCL) Abbreviated prescribing information: Presentation: Each capsule contains fluoxetine hydrochloride equivalent to 20 mg of fluoxetine. **Indications: GEROZAC** is indicated for the treatment of major depressive episodes. **Dose:** A dose of 20 mg/day is recommended and a maximum daily dose should not exceed 80 mg/day which can be administered as single or divided dose, during or between meals. ***Patients with renal or liver disease:*** In cases of liver dysfunction or renal failure (GFR 10-5 ml/min), the dose should be reduced, e.g. to 20 mg every second day. ***Children:*** Fluoxetine capsules are not indicated for use in children and adolescents below the age of 18. ***Elderly:*** Caution is recommended when increasing the dose, which should rarely exceed 40 mg and should not exceed 60 mg. ***Method of administration:*** For oral administration. ***Contraindications:*** Concurrent treatment with MAOIs (monoamine oxidase inhibitors). Cautionary use with other antidepressants. Not to be used where there is severe renal failure (GFR < 10ml/min). Unstable or uncontrolled epilepsy. Not to be used by nursing mothers. Hypersensitivity to any of the ingredients. **Precautions:** As with all antidepressants risk of suicide particularly at the beginning of treatment due to the delay between treatment and clinical improvement. Concomittant use of *tryptophan. Epilepsy, electroconvulsive therapy, cardiovascular disease, recent myocardial infarction, diabetes, alcohol, hepatic and renal insufficiency, and overdose.* **Side-effects:** *rash and allergic reaction, psychosis and* mood shift towards manic phase, serotonin syndrome, inappropriate secretion of antidiuretic hormone, anorexia, weight loss, appetite loss, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dry mouth, dyspepsia, constipation, headache, restlessness, insomnia, anxiety, dizziness, visual disturbance, drowsiness, confusion, tremor, sweating, sedation. Small increases in diastolic blood pressure and tachycardia as well as bradycardia. Hyperprolactinemia with galactorrhea, hyponatremias. Rare cases of increased ALTs and exceptional cytolytic or mixed hepatitis. **Product authorisation holder:** Generics (UK) Ltd, Station Close, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 1TL, England. **Product authorisation number:** PA/405/36/1 Available only on prescription. **Date of preparation or last review:** December 1999. For full prescribing information please see the Summary of Product Characteristics. **Further information is available from:** Gerard Laboratories, 2004A Orchard Avenue, CityWest Business Campus, Naas Rd, Dublin 24. **FREEPHONE 1800 272 272.** Fax: 01 4661912 **Reference: 1.** MIMS December 1999

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Submissions & correspondence to:
The Editor,
Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine,
25 Adelaide Street,
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin,
Ireland.

Telephone
01-2803967; Int: +353-1-2803967

Fax
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Fast Response

Can start to improve symptoms of depression within 7 days[1]

LUSTRAL™ 50mg

sertraline

A first choice antidepressant

Mental Health

Abbreviated Prescribing Information: LUSTRAL™ (sertraline)

Presentation: Tablets containing 50mg or 100mg sertraline. **Indications:** Treatment of symptoms of depressive illness, including accompanying symptoms of anxiety. Prevention of relapse or recurrence of depressive episodes, including accompanying symptoms of anxiety. Obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). Panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia. **Dosage:** Lustral should be given as a single daily dose. The initial dose in depression and OCD is 50mg and the usual antidepressant dose is 50mg. The initial dose in panic disorder is 25mg, increasing to 50mg after one week. Dosage can be further increased, if appropriate, to a maximum of 200mg daily. Patients should be maintained on the lowest effective dose. **Use in children:** Not recommended. **Use in the elderly:** Usual adult dose. **Contra-indications:** Hypersensitivity to this group of drugs. Hepatic insufficiency, unstable epilepsy and convulsant disorders, pregnancy and lactation. Do not use with, or within two weeks of ending treatment with, MAOIs. At least 14 days should elapse before starting any MAOI following discontinuation of Lustral. **Precautions, warnings:** Renal insufficiency, ECT, epilepsy, driving. Lustral should be discontinued in a patient who develops seizures. Lustral should not be administered with benzodiazepines or other tranquillizers in patients who drive or operate machinery. Serotonergic drugs such as tryptophan or fenfluramine should be used with caution. The patient should be monitored for signs of suicide or mania. **Drug Interactions:** Caution with other centrally active medication. Lithium levels should be monitored. Although Lustral has been shown to have no adverse interaction with alcohol, concomitant use with alcohol is not recommended. The potential for Lustral to interact with other highly protein bound drugs should be borne in mind. Interactions with e.g. warfarin, diazepam, tolbutamide and cimetidine have not been fully assessed. With warfarin prothrombin time should be monitored when Lustral is initiated or stopped. **Side-Effects:** Dry mouth, nausea, diarrhoea/loose stools, ejaculatory delay, tremor, increased sweating, dizziness, insomnia, somnolence, headache, anorexia and dyspepsia. Rarely, abnormal LFTs, hyponatraemia. The following have been reported with Lustral but may have no causal relationship: vomiting, abdominal pain, movement disorders, convulsions, menstrual irregularities, hyperprolactinaemia, galactorrhoea, rash and alopecia. Rarely, pancreatitis, serious liver events, altered platelet function, abnormal bleeding and purpura. As with other serotonin re-uptake inhibitors rare reports of agitation, confusion, depersonalisation, hallucinations, nervousness, postural hypotension, hypo/hypertension, tachycardia and arrhythmias. Withdrawal reactions have been reported with Lustral. Common symptoms include dizziness, paraesthesia, headache, anxiety and nausea. Abrupt discontinuation of treatment with Lustral should be avoided. The majority of symptoms experienced on withdrawal of Lustral are non-serious and self-limiting. **Legal Category:** S1A. **Package Quantities:** 50mg tablet (PA 822/1/4) Calendar pack of 28; 100mg tablet (PA 822/1/5) Calendar pack of 28. **Product Authorisation Holder:** Pfizer (Ireland) Limited, Parkway House, Ballymount Road Lower, Dublin 12, Republic of Ireland. Further information on request: Pfizer (Ireland) Limited. Date last revised: June 1999. **Reference:**

1. Lapierre YD. *Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 1991; **6** (Suppl. 2): 23-35.

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