

Common Antidepressants that May Cause Excessive Sweating as a Side Effect & Other Medications that May Interact with Antidepressants to Cause Serotonin Syndrome

Excessive sweating has been noted as a potential side effect of antidepressants and is specifically associated with antidepressants in the class of selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs). Well-designed clinical trials have demonstrated that sweating occurs in 7% to 19% of patients on these medications. Additionally, recent evidence suggests that interactions with other medications that a patient may be taking, in particular common migraine medications in the Triptan class (such as Imitrex[®] and Maxalt[®]), can exacerbate the problem and in some cases cause a life-threatening reaction called serotonin syndrome.

A list of common antidepressants that may cause sweating as a side effect is provided below. Also provided below is a list of medications that may interact with antidepressants to cause the potentially dangerous serotonin syndrome. These lists are provided as a resource and a service. They are not exhaustive and are in no way meant to replace consultation with a medical professional. U.S. brand names are listed first. Generic names are given in parentheses.

Antidepressants that May Have the Side Effect of Sweating

Listed by Therapeutic Mechanism

SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitors):

Celexa[®] (citalopram)
Luvox[®] (fluvoxamine)
Lexapro[®] (escitalopram)
Paxil[®] (paroxetine)
Prozac[®] (fluoxetine)
Symbyax[®] (olanzapine/fluoxetine)
Zoloft[®] (sertraline)

SNRIs (Serotonin-Norepinephrine Re-Uptake Inhibitors):

Cymbalta[®] (duloxetine)
Effexor[®] (venlafaxine)

Medications that May React with SSRIs to Cause Serotonin Syndrome

Triptans (5-hydroxytryptamine receptor agonists)

Amerge[®] (naratriptan)
Axert[®] (almotriptan)
Frova[®] (frovatriptan)
Imitrex[®] (sumatriptan)
Maxalt[®] and Maxalt-MLT[®] (rizatriptan)
Relpax[®] (eletriptan)
Zomig[®] and Zomig ZMT[®] (zolmitriptan)

References:

Buecking A, Vandeleur CL, Khazaal Y, Zullino DF. Mirtazapine in drug-induced excessive sweating. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol*. 2005; 61(7) 543-4
Cyproheptadine for Drug-Induced Sweating. Ashton AK, Weinstein WL. *Am J Psychiatry* 159;5. 2002. 874-875
FDA warning: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/venlafaxineHCP.htm>
Ganetsky M, Bush ED. Serotonin Syndrome – what have we learned? *Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine*. Volume 6 No 2. June 2005