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® (sertaline)

**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:
FDA warning: http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/InfoSheets/HCP/venlafaxineHCP.htm