FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

# Taking sertraline safely

sertraline · also sold as Zoloft · once daily, 50-200 mg

## 3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

**1 Taking it with the wrong medicine**

Never with an MAO inhibitor or pimozide. The oral liquid also cannot mix with disulfiram.

**2 Stopping it on your own, all at once**

Taper off with your doctor to avoid anxiety, irritability, and other withdrawal symptoms.

**3 Missing the warning signs**

Serotonin syndrome, bleeding risk, mania, and low sodium all need prompt medical attention.

## How to take it

- **Usual dose:** 50 mg a day. Your prescriber may raise it up to **200 mg** if you need more benefit.
- Tablets can be taken with or without food.
- **Never stop suddenly.** Taper off with your doctor to avoid anxiety, irritability, trouble sleeping, or electric-shock feelings.

## Medicines that cannot mix (mistake #1)

- **MAO inhibitors:** never combine. Wait **14 days** either way before switching. This includes linezolid and IV methylene blue.
- **Pimozide:** never combine.
- **Oral liquid only:** never combine with disulfiram (Antabuse).
- Also tell us about other antidepressants, tramadol, lithium, St. John's wort, aspirin, NSAIDs, and blood thinners.

Don't drink alcohol while you take it. Don't drive or do risky tasks until you know how it affects you.

**IMPORTANT**

Sertraline carries a boxed warning: in children, teens and young adults, antidepressants can raise the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions.

## Call your doctor right away if you notice

- New or worse depression, anxiety, agitation, or thoughts of suicide, especially in the first few months or after a dose change.
- Fever, confusion, agitation, muscle stiffness, or a fast heartbeat (possible serotonin syndrome).
- Increased bruising or bleeding, especially with aspirin, NSAIDs, or blood thinners.
- A big jump in energy, racing thoughts, or reckless behavior (possible mania).
- Headache, confusion, weakness, or unsteadiness (possible low sodium), especially in older adults.

**EMERGENCY: CALL 911**

Rash, hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, or trouble breathing.

**Thoughts of suicide?** Call or text **988** (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), any time.

## Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

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