




### Other side-effects you need to know about:

- When your child first starts taking atomoxetine, they may have headaches, lose their appetite, feel sick (nausea) or be sick (vomit), have stomach pain and feel sleepy. These effects should wear off after 1-2 weeks as your child's body gets used to the medicine.
- Your child may seem irritable and have mood swings.
- Your child may feel dizzy or light-headed, especially when standing up. Encourage them to stand up slowly, and to sit or lie down if they feel dizzy or light-headed.
- They may have problems sleeping or feel lethargic (tired).
- They may get constipation (difficulty doing a poo). Encourage them to drink plenty of fluid and eat food that contains fibre (wholemeal foods, fruit and vegetables).
- They may get a rash, or swollen, reddened and itchy skin. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if this becomes troublesome.
- Your child may lose some weight during the first few months of treatment. Contact your doctor if you are concerned.
- Atomoxetine may affect the growth of some children. The specialist will monitor your child's growth.

There may, sometimes, be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor. You can report any suspected side-effects to a UK safety scheme at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)


### Can other medicines be given at the same time as atomoxetine?

- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- Atomoxetine should not be taken with some medicines. Tell your doctor or pharmacist about any other medicines your child is taking **before** giving atomoxetine.

 Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child has taken a medicine known as a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) e.g. phenelzine, in the last 2 weeks (used to treat depression and other mental health problems).

- Check with your doctor or pharmacist **before** giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal and complementary medicines.


### Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

 Atomoxetine may harm an unborn baby. If your daughter or a young woman in your care is sexually active, it is important that she uses adequate contraception to prevent pregnancy and continues to use it for at least month after stopping atomoxetine. The contraceptive pill can be used when taking atomoxetine.

- If your daughter or a young woman in your care thinks she might be pregnant, she should see her doctor as soon as possible, but keep taking atomoxetine in the meantime.
- Whilst taking atomoxetine, your child will need to have their pulse and blood pressure checked regularly. Your doctor will tell you how often.

### General advice about medicines

- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your doctor but continue to give the medicine as usual in the meantime. Do not give extra doses, as you may do harm.
- Only give this medicine to *your* child. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.

 If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact your doctor straight away.

- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you will run out.
- Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

### Where I should keep this medicine?

- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.
- The liquid medicine can only be used for a limited time once it has been opened. Write the date that you start it on the bottle and make sure you follow the instructions on the bottle about how long you can keep it.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

### Who to contact for more information

Your child's doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about atomoxetine and about other treatments for ADHD.

You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111 - Tel 111 - [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

Scotland: NHS 24 - Tel 111 - [www.nhs24.scot](http://www.nhs24.scot)

Wales: NHS Direct - Tel 0845 46 47 (2p per minute) or 111 (free) - [www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk)

Northern Ireland: NI Direct - [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

### ADDISS (ADHD Information Services):

Tel 020 8952 2800 - [www.addiss.co.uk](http://www.addiss.co.uk)

[www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk)

**WellChild**   
the national charity for sick children

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The primary source for the information in this leaflet is the British National Formulary for Children. For details on any other sources used for this leaflet, please contact us through our website, [www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk). We take great care to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct and up-to-date. However, medicines can be used in different ways for different patients. It is important that you ask the advice of your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about something. This leaflet is about the use of these medicines in the UK, and may not apply to other countries. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG), WellChild and the contributors and editors cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of information, omissions of information, or any actions that may be taken as a consequence of reading this leaflet.