

Mirtazapine

About: Atypical antidepressant. A NaSSA (noradrenergic & specific serotonergic Antidepressant)
Introduced in 1996. Many generic brands on the market. AKA Zispin

Uses antidepressant, anti-anxiety, hypnotic, appetite stimulant, anti-emetic. In US licensed for PTSD, anxiety disorders, OCD and other conditions

Route and Doses: swallowed, dispersible tablets; 15mg-30mg

Mechanism of action: v complex

- Elevation of adrenalin and serotonin
- agonist at 5-HT₂ receptors
- enhanced transmission at 5-HT₁ receptors
- blocks H₁ histamine & muscarine receptors
- Inverse agonist at 5-HT_{2C} receptors: inhibition here reduces dopamine release in reward areas of brain, diminishing reward from e.g. drug seeking behaviours



Law: POM Not currently a CD in UK

Risks: Sedation, weight gain, constipation, dry mouth.
Low OD risk: have been recorded at 30x-50x prescribed doses.

Interactions: elevates serotonin so risk of serotonin syndrome in conjunction with other serotonergics (e.g. MDMA); Elevates adrenalin a bit, so may bring risk with stimulants.

Potential uses: being explored as treatment for methamphetamine addiction, as reduces reward from dopamine.

As impacts on nausea, appetite, anxiety, sleep may be useful in SPICE withdrawal.

Misuse: low potential; causes drowsiness, weird dreams, little euphoria. But has become sought-after especially in prisons, mainly for sleep.