

Antidepressant Use in Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease

Your patient has chronic kidney disease (CKD). This handout provides information about dosing adjustments if antidepressants are required. The information is provided as a guide. If you have a patient specific question, please contact your patient's nephrologist or care team. References can be found in the full guideline, "Depression and Anxiety: The Role of Kidney Care Clinics" at bcrenalagency.ca.

Medications	Dosing adjustment in renal failure				Comments
	eGFR 30-60 mL/min	eGFR 15-30 mL/min	eGFR less than 15 mL/min	Dialysis (PD or HD)	
1st line therapies					
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI)					
Citalopram	No adjustment	No adjustment	No adjustment	No adjustment (HD: not removed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of QTc prolongation (max 40 mg/day or 20 mg/day with strong CYP2C19 inhibitors*) Half as potent as escitalopram, therefore NOT interchangeable
Escitalopram	No adjustment	SD: 10 mg/day	SD: 10 mg/day	SD: 10 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of QTc prolongation Twice as potent as citalopram, therefore NOT interchangeable
Fluoxetine	No adjustment	No adjustment	No adjustment	No adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of QTc prolongation
Fluvoxamine	No adjustment	No adjustment	No adjustment	No adjustment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many potential drug interactions Most nauseating/sedating SSRI
Paroxetine	SD: 10 mg/day	SD: 10 mg/day	SD: 10 mg/day	SD: 10 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most anticholinergic activity (caution in elderly) Has been used for pruritus
Sertraline	No adjustment	SD: 50 mg/day	SD: 25 mg/day	SD: 25 mg/day	
Non - 1st line therapies					
Serotonin/Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRI)					
Desvenlafaxine	SD: 50 mg Q2days	Max: 50 mg Q2days	Max: 50 mg Q2days	Max: 50 mg Q2days	
Duloxetine	No adjustment	SD: 30 mg/day	SD: 30 mg/day	SD: 30 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also Rx-peripheral neuropathy
Venlafaxine	No adjustment	37.5-112.5 mg/day	37.5-112.5 mg/day	37.5-112.5 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly more N/V than SSRIs Also Rx-peripheral neuropathy
Serotonin Antagonist/Reuptake Inhibitor (SARI)					
Trazodone	No adjustment	No adjustment	SD: 150 mg/day	SD: 150 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good choice for concomitant insomnia (usual dose for this indication: 25-50 mg)
Other Antidepressants					
Bupropion	Max: 150 mg/day	Max: 150 mg/day	Max: 150 mg/day	Max: 150 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of accumulation of toxic metabolites causing dysrhythmia (wide QRS complex) Caution in seizure disorders
Mirtazapine	No adjustment	15 mg/day	15 mg/day	15 mg/day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also used for pruritus Good choice for concomitant insomnia (dose: 7.5-15 mg HS)

Abbreviations: CV: cardiovascular; eGFR: estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate; HD: hemodialysis; HS: at bedtime; Max: maximum dose, N/V/D: nausea/vomiting/diarrhea; PD: peritoneal dialysis; SD: starting dose