

Contraindications

No MAO-Is

Caution-tape Mao with Inhibiting-chains

Patients should not take monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAO-Is) concurrently with SSRIs, as this increases the available pool of serotonin in the brain and increases the risk of developing serotonin syndrome.

No Anticoagulants / Antiplatelets

Caution-tape Ant-tie-clogs and Ant-tie-plates

SSRI's decrease aggregation of platelets and increase GI bleeding risk up to 3 times. Patients should be advised to avoid anticoagulants and antiplatelets while taking these medications.

Considerations

Suicide Risk

Risk of Suicidal-jumper

Patients taking SSRIs may experience side effects, such as violent behavior, mania or aggression, which can increase suicidal thoughts or actions. Suicide risk increases during the initial phase of starting on the medication because as the patient starts to feel better they may have enough energy to carry out the suicide.

Delayed Onset of Action

Delayed On-switch

SSRIs most often take 1-3 weeks for therapeutic effects to occur with some patients taking up to 6 weeks. Recent studies suggest longer response times in patients with comorbid conditions or severe depression. Patients should be educated not to expect immediate effects of the medication.