

Prescribing Tip For Information

## Interaction between citalopram/escitalopram and omeprazole/esomeprazole

- Citalopram and escitalopram have been found to cause dose-dependent prolongation of the QT-interval.
- Omeprazole and esomeprazole are CYP2C19 inhibitors. This means they can increase plasma levels of citalopram and escitalopram which are metabolised by this route. This may increase the risk of side effects of citalopram and escitalopram including an increased risk of QT prolongation. The manufacturer advises that a reduced dose of citalopram or escitalopram may be required based on monitoring of side effects during concomitant treatment.
- Within a warning from the [MHRA](#) on the risks of QT prolongation with citalopram and escitalopram, they recommend that dose reductions may be required for patients taking drugs which increase the plasma level of citalopram and escitalopram. This includes omeprazole.
- The concentrations of citalopram and escitalopram may also be increased by lansoprazole and pantoprazole, although evidence suggests this may be less than omeprazole and esomeprazole. Until more is known it is advised to be alert for adverse effects and adjust the dose if required. The BNF does not list an interaction between citalopram or escitalopram and lansoprazole or pantoprazole.
- The MHRA also advises that electrolyte disturbances (e.g. hypomagnesaemia) should be corrected before treatment with citalopram and escitalopram. Monitoring of magnesium levels is advised, particularly in elderly patients, who may be taking a proton pump inhibitor (PPI).

Interactions can be checked for using the BNF, the Summary of Product Characteristics ([emc](#)) and the EMIS safety check function.

### Warnings

Selected Drug - **Citalopram 20mg tablets**

Contains - Citalopram Hydrobromide 20 mg

#### High Severity Warnings (1)



**Drug to Drug Interaction** Omeprazole slightly to moderately increases the exposure to Citalopram. Manufacturer advises monitor and adjust dose.

Omeprazole 20mg gastro-resistant capsules

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302

If you have any suggestions for future topics to cover in our prescribing tips please contact [Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net](mailto:Nicola.schaffel@nhs.net)

All content accurate and correct on the date of issue of this tip.

With thanks to SPS for help with the information within this prescribing tip.