Flibanserin (All Populations Monograph)

Contraindications/Precautions

Absolute contraindications are italicized.

- *hepatic failure*
- activities requiring coordination and concentration
- breast-feeding
- cardiac disease
- CYP2C19 poor metabolizer
- driving or operating machinery
- ethanol ingestion
- hypotension **B**
- hypovolemia
- pregnancy
- syncope **B**

The coadministration of certain medications may lead to harm and require avoidance or therapy modification; review all drug interactions prior to concomitant use of other medications.

This medication is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to it or any of its components. Flibanserin is contraindicated in people with a history of angioedema or other serious hypersensitivity reaction due to prior use of flibanserin.[60099]

The use of flibanserin has the potential to cause hypotension and syncope, and the product has a boxed warning for these effects. The risk of hypotension and syncope is increased if the drug is taken during waking hours or if higher than the recommended dose is taken. Consider the benefits of treatment with flibanserin versus the risk of hypotension and syncope in patients with pre-existing conditions that predispose them to hypotension or syncopal episodes. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, cardiac disease, concurrent use of antihypertensives, dehydration, or hypovolemia. Patients should take their daily dose at bedtime to reduce risks for hypotension. Patients who experience pre-syncope should immediately lie in a supine position and promptly seek medical attention if the symptoms do not resolve. Patients who experience syncope should promptly seek medical attention.[60099]

People receiving flibanserin should be instructed to avoid ethanol ingestion (1 or 2 standard alcoholic drinks) for at least 2 hours before taking their bedtime dose of flibanserin, due to an increased risk of severe hypotension and syncope. Alternatively, the patient may skip the flibanserin dose if alcohol is consumed that evening. Individuals who drink 3 or more standard alcoholic drinks must skip their flibanserin bedtime dose. After taking a flibanserin dose at bedtime, advise all patients not to use alcohol until the following day. Clinical studies have demonstrated that the use of flibanserin and alcohol increases the risk of severe hypotension and syncope vs. the use of either agent alone, and coadministration also increases the risk for additive CNS effects, such as sedation. In a dedicated interaction study of the effects of alcohol with flibanserin, systolic and diastolic blood pressure reductions and orthostatic changes were clinically significant and required clinical intervention in some patients. There were no events requiring therapeutic interventions when flibanserin or alcohol were administered alone. [60099]

Flibanserin is contraindicated for use in people with any degree of hepatic impairment or hepatic failure. The product information for flibanserin contains a boxed warning emphasizing that hepatic impairment significantly increases flibanserin concentrations (4.5-fold compared to subjects with normal hepatic function), which can lead to severe hypotension, syncope, and CNS depressive effects. The coadministration of certain medications may significantly inhibit the hepatic metabolism of flibanserin, even when hepatic function is normal.

Flibanserin is primarily metabolized by hepatic CYP3A4 and to a lesser extent by CYP2C19. The concomitant use of moderate or strong CYP3A4 inhibitors with flibanserin is contraindicated. The concomitant use of multiple weak CYP3A4 inhibitors including herbal supplements (e.g., ginkgo, resveratrol) or non-prescription drugs (e.g., cimetidine), or the use of potent CYP2C19 inhibitors, could also lead to clinically relevant increases in flibanserin concentrations that may increase the risk for hypotension and syncope.[60099]

There are no studies of flibanserin during human pregnancy to inform whether there is a drug-associated risk in humans. In animals, fetal toxicity only occurred in the presence of significant maternal toxicity including reductions in weight gain and sedation. Adverse reproductive and developmental effects consisted of decreased fetal weight, structural anomalies and increases in fetal loss at exposures greater than 15 times exposures achieved with the recommended human dosage. Animal studies cannot rule out the potential for fetal harm. [60099]

Breast-feeding is not recommended during treatment with flibanserin, due to the potential for serious adverse reactions, including sedation, in a breastfed infant. It is unknown whether flibanserin is present in human milk, whether the drug has effects on the breastfed infant, or whether the drug can affect milk production.[60099]

Increase the monitoring for hypotension and syncope in people who have CYP2C19 poor metabolizer status. Flibanserin is primarily metabolized by CYP3A4, and to a lesser extent by CYP2C19. Patients who are a CYP2C19 poor metabolizer (PMs) have increased flibanserin exposures (AUCs) compared to CYP2C19 extensive metabolizers, which may lead to syncope.[60099]

Because flibanserin can cause CNS depression, including somnolence and sedation, the drug should only be administered at bedtime. Patients should be instructed to avoid driving or operating machinery or performing other activities requiring coordination and concentration for at least 6 hours after taking their bedtime dose and until they know how the drug affects them. During one clinical trial evaluation, no adverse effect was detected on measures of driving performance itself or psychomotor performance thought to be important for driving performance when assessed 9 hours following single and multiple doses of flibanserin. The risk of CNS depression is increased if flibanserin is taken during waking hours, taken with alcohol, or if there is coadministration with other CNS depressants. Administration with medications that increase flibanserin concentrations (e.g., CYP3A4 inhibitors) may also increase CNS effects and risk for hypotension.[60099]

References

60099 – Addyi (flibanserin tablets) package insert. Raleigh, NC: Sprout Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; 2025 Dec.