SHERI SPIRT, M.D.

PSYCHIATRY

16 East 96th Street Unit 1A

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10128

(212) 595-6901

[SSDR18@AOL.COM](mailto:SSDR18@AOL.COM)

WWW.DRSHERISPIRT.COM

VIIBRYD

## What is Viibryd?

Viibryd (vilazodone) is an antidepressant in a group of drugs called [selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors](https://www.drugs.com/drug-class/ssri-antidepressants.html) (SSRIs).

Viibryd is used to treat [major depressive disorder](https://www.drugs.com/mcd/depression-major-depressive-disorder) (MDD).

Viibryd may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

## Important information

You should not use Viibryd if you are being treated with methylene blue injection.

Do not use Viibryd if you have used an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days, such as isocarboxazid, linezolid, methylene blue injection, phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline, or tranylcypromine. A dangerous drug interaction could occur.

Slideshow

[First Aid for Mental Health: Investigational Drugs to the Rescue](https://www.drugs.com/slideshow/mental-health-first-aid-10-drugs-in-the-pipeline-1204#slide-1)

Some young people have thoughts about suicide when first taking an antidepressant. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor.

Viibryd is not approved for use in children.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use Viibryd if you are being treated with methylene blue injection.

Do not use Viibryd if you have used an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days. A dangerous drug interaction could occur. MAO inhibitors include isocarboxazid, linezolid, methylene blue injection, phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine, and others.

After you stop taking Viibryd, you must wait at least 14 days before you start taking an MAOI.

Some medicines can interact with vilazodone and cause a serious condition called serotonin syndrome. Be sure your doctor knows about all other medicines you use. Ask your doctor before making any changes in how or when you take your medications.

To make sure Viibryd is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

* liver or kidney disease;
* a bleeding or blood clotting disorder;
* narrow-angle glaucoma;
* seizures or epilepsy;
* bipolar disorder (manic depression);
* a history of drug abuse or suicidal thoughts; or
* if you drink alcohol.

Some young people have thoughts about suicide when first taking an antidepressant. Your doctor should check your progress at regular visits. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms.

Taking an SSRI antidepressant during pregnancy may cause serious lung problems or other complications in the baby. However, you may have a relapse of depression if you stop taking your antidepressant. Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. **Do not start or stop taking this medicine during pregnancy without your doctor's advice.**

It is not known whether vilazodone passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

Do not give Viibryd to anyone under 18 years old without medical advice. Viibryd is not approved for use in children.

## How should I take Viibryd?

Take Viibryd exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Viibryd works best if you take it with food.

It may take several weeks or months before your symptoms improve. Keep using the medication as directed and tell your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse.

Do not stop using Viibryd suddenly, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to safely stop using this medicine.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

## Viibryd dosing information

**Usual Adult Dose for Depression:**

Initial dose: 10 mg orally once a day for 7 days, followed by 20 mg orally once a day for an additional 7 days  
Maintenance dose: 40 mg orally once a day  
  
Comments: This drug should be taken with food.  
  
Use: Major Depressive Disorder (MDD)

**See also:** [Dosage Information (in more detail)](https://www.drugs.com/dosage/viibryd.html)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of vilazodone can be fatal.**

## What should I avoid while taking Viibryd?

Drinking alcohol with vilazodone can cause side effects.

Ask your doctor before taking a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for pain, arthritis, fever, or swelling. This includes aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), celecoxib (Celebrex), diclofenac, indomethacin, meloxicam, and others. Using an NSAID with vilazodone may cause you to bruise or bleed easily.

This medication may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

## Viibryd side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Viibryd:** skin rash or hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor, such as: mood or behavior changes, anxiety, panic attacks, trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, hyperactive (mentally or physically), more depressed, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

* a seizure (convulsions);
* blurred vision, tunnel vision, eye pain or swelling, or seeing halos around lights;
* easy bruising, unusual bleeding (nose, mouth, vagina, or rectum), blood in your urine or stools, purple or red pinpoint spots under your skin;
* racing thoughts, unusual risk-taking behavior, decreased inhibitions, feelings of extreme happiness or sadness; or
* **high levels of serotonin in the body** - agitation, hallucinations, fever, fast heart rate, overactive reflexes, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fainting; or
* **low levels of sodium in the body** - headache, confusion, slurred speech, severe weakness, loss of coordination, feeling unsteady.

Common Viibryd side effects may include:

* vision changes;
* diarrhea, mild nausea; or
* sleep problems (insomnia).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**See also:** [Side effects (in more detail)](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html)

## What other drugs will affect Viibryd?

**Taking Viibryd with other drugs that make you sleepy or slow your breathing can cause dangerous side effects or death.** Ask your doctor before taking a sleeping pill, narcotic pain medicine, prescription cough medicine, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety, depression, or seizures.

Many drugs can interact with vilazodone. Not all possible interactions are listed here. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using, especially:

* any other antidepressant;
* a diuretic or "water pill";
* mephenytoin;
* St. John's wort;
* **a blood thinner** - warfarin, Coumadin, Jantoven;
* **medicine to treat anxiety, mood disorders, thought disorders, or mental illness** - amitriptyline, buspirone, desipramine, lithium, nortriptyline, and many others;
* **medicine to treat ADHD or narcolepsy** - Adderall, Concerta, Ritalin, Vyvanse, Zenzedi, and others;
* **migraine headache medicine** - rizatriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan, and others; or
* **narcotic pain medicine** - fentanyl, tramadol.

This list is not complete and many other drugs can interact with vilazodone. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Give a list of all your medicines to any healthcare provider who treats you.

## In Summary

**Common side effects of Viibryd include:** diarrhea and nausea. **Other side effects include:** dizziness, insomnia, and abnormal dreams. See below for a comprehensive list of adverse effects.

### Major Side Effects

**If any of the following side effects occur while taking vilazodone, check with your doctor immediately:**

**Less common:**

* Actions that are out of control
* anxiety
* burning, crawling, itching, numbness, prickling, "pins and needles", or tingling feelings
* chest pain or discomfort
* extra heartbeat
* fast, irregular, pounding, or racing heartbeat or pulse
* irritability
* shakiness in the legs, arms, hands, or feet
* sweating
* talking, feeling, and acting with excitement
* trembling or shaking of the hands or feet

### Minor Side Effects

Some vilazodone side effects may not need any medical attention. As your body gets used to the medicine these side effects may disappear. Your health care professional may be able to help you prevent or reduce these side effects, but do check with them if any of the following side effects continue, or if you are concerned about them:

**More common:**

* Diarrhea
* dizziness
* dry mouth
* nausea
* trouble sleeping

**Less common:**

* Abdominal or stomach pain
* abnormal dreams
* aching or discomfort in the lower legs or sensation of crawling in the legs
* acid or sour stomach
* belching
* blindness
* bloated or full feeling
* blurred vision
* change in taste
* decreased interest in sexual intercourse
* decreased vision
* difficulty with moving
* drowsiness
* dry eyes
* excess air or gas in the stomach or intestines
* feeling jittery
* headache, severe and throbbing
* heartburn
* inability to have or keep an erection
* increased or decreased appetite
* increased sweating
* indigestion
* loss in sexual ability, desire, drive, or performance
* loss of appetite
* loss of taste
* muscle pain or stiffness
* night sweats
* not able to have an orgasm
* pain in the joints
* passing gas
* relaxed and calm
* restlessness
* sleepiness or unusual drowsiness
* stomach discomfort or upset
* unusual tiredness or weakness
* vomiting
* weakness

## For Healthcare Professionals

### Psychiatric

Common (1% to 10%): Insomnia, abnormal dreams, decreased libido, restlessness, abnormal orgasm  
Uncommon (0.1% to 1%): Panic attack, mania  
Frequency not reported: Clinical worsening and suicide risk, activation of mania/hypomania, discontinuation symptoms [dysphoric mood, irritability, agitation, dizziness, sensory disturbances (e.g., paresthesia, such as electric shock sensations), anxiety, confusion, headache, lethargy, emotional lability, insomnia, hypomania, tinnitus, and seizures]  
Postmarketing reports: Irritability, hallucinations, suicide attempt, suicidal ideation[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Nervous system

Common (1% to 10%): Dizziness, somnolence, paresthesia, tremor, sedation, migraine  
Uncommon (0.1% to 1%): Dysgeusia, serotonin syndrome  
Frequency not reported: Seizure[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Cardiovascular

Common (1% to 10%): Palpitations  
Uncommon (0.1% to 1%): Ventricular extrasystoles[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Gastrointestinal

Very common (10% or more): Diarrhea (28%), nausea (23%)  
Common (1% to 10%): Dry mouth, vomiting, dyspepsia, flatulence, gastroenteritis[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Genitourinary

Common (1% to 10%): Delayed ejaculation, erectile dysfunction, decreased libido, abnormal orgasm, sexual dysfunction[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Musculoskeletal

* Common (1% to 10%): Arthralgia[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### General

* The most commonly observed side effects were: diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and insomnia.[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Dermatologic

* Common (1% to 10%): Hyperhidrosis, night sweats[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Hematologic

* Frequency not reported: Abnormal Bleeding[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Metabolic

* Common (1% to 10%): Increased appetite, decreased appetite  
  Frequency not reported: Hyponatremia[[Ref](https://www.drugs.com/sfx/viibryd-side-effects.html#refs)]

### Ocular