

# SEROTONIN SYNDROME

## FACTS

- The syndrome may occur within hours of starting a selected medication or when the dosage is increased.
- It can occur regardless of how long a person has been taking the medication.
- Serotonin syndrome is rare however the risk increases if a combination of identified drugs are taken.
- Medications associated with serotonin syndrome
  - SSRI (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor)
    - Citalopram (Celexa)
    - Escitalopram (Lexapro)
    - Sertraline (Zoloft)
    - Fluoxetine (Prozac)
    - Paroxetine (Paxil)
  - SNRI (Serotonin-Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitor)
    - Duloxetine (Cymbalta)
    - Venlafaxine (Effexor)
    - Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq)
  - Other drugs in combination with SSRI or SNRI
    - Tramadol
    - Triptans for migraines
    - Tri-cyclic antidepressants
    - Trazodone
    - Mirtazapine
    - St John's Wort
    - Ginseng

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Diarrhea
- Rapid heartrate
- Muscle spasms and rigidity
- High fever
- Excessive sweating
- Shivering
- Tremors
- Confusion

## TREATMENT

- If symptoms are mild, call the provider for guidance.
- If symptoms are moderate to severe, go to the emergency room for care.
- Treatment in intensive care may be needed to support blood pressure, heartrate and breathing.