

# DESTIQ ER TABLETS

Desvenlafaxine Extended Release Tablets (50 mg, 100 mg)

## What is in this leaflet

1. What is DESTIQ ER used for
2. How DESTIQ ER works
3. Before you use DESTIQ ER
4. How to use DESTIQ ER
5. While you are using it
6. Side effects
7. Storage and Disposal of DESTIQ ER
8. Product Description
9. Manufacturer and Product Registration Holder
10. Date of revision
11. Serial number

## What DESTIQ ER is used for

DESTIQ is used in the treatment of major depressive disorder (MDD).

## How DESTIQ ER works

DESTIQ belongs to a class of medications called serotonin-noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs). Serotonin and noradrenaline are chemical messengers that allow certain nerves in the brain to work. DESTIQ tablets increase the level of these two messengers. Experts think this is how it helps to restore your feeling of wellness.

## Before you use DESTIQ ER

### - When you must not use it

Do not take DESTIQ ER:

- if you are allergic to desvenlafaxine, venlafaxine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine
- if you are also taking, or have taken within the last 14 days, any medicines known as Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs), used to treat depression or Parkinson's disease. Taking a reversible MAOI together with DESTIQ ER or in whom intravenous methylene blue has been administered can cause serious or even life-threatening side effects. Also, you must wait at least 7 days after you stop taking DESTIQ ER before you take any MAOI.

### *Pregnancy and lactation*

You should use DESTIQ ER only after discussing the potential benefits and the

potential risks to your unborn child with your doctor.

DESTIQ ER crosses the human placenta. If you are taking this medicine during pregnancy, your baby may not feed properly, have trouble breathing, or may encounter prolonged hospitalization. If your baby has these symptoms when it is born and you are concerned, contact your doctor who will be able to advise you.

Consuming DESTIQ ER during pregnancy may cause high blood pressure, sometimes associated with fluid accumulation, excessive post-delivery bleeding.

Discontinuing the medicine may lead to a recurrence of depression. Please inform your doctor if your symptoms persist or increase after discontinuing the medicine.

DESTIQ ER passes into breast milk and its effect in infants have not been established. Therefore, you should discuss the matter with your doctor, and he/she will prescribe this medicine only if the expected benefits outweigh the possible risks.

### - Before you start to use it

If any of the following apply to you, please tell your doctor before taking DESTIQ ER:

- if you have a history of, or if someone in your family has had, mania or hypomania
- if you are depressed and have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. You may be more likely to think like this if you have previously had thoughts about killing yourself or harming yourself or if you are a young adult.
- if you are using other medicines that taken together with DESTIQ ER could increase the risk of developing serotonin syndrome. Signs and symptoms of serotonin syndrome may include restlessness, hallucinations, loss of coordination, fast heartbeat, increased body temperature, fast changes in blood pressure, overactive reflexes, diarrhoea, coma, nausea and vomiting. In its most severe form, serotonin syndrome can resemble neuroleptic

malignant syndrome (NMS). Signs and symptoms of NMS may include high temperature with rigid muscles, confusion or agitation, and sweating

- if you have eye problems, such as certain kinds of glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye)
- if you have a history of high blood pressure
- if you have a history of heart problems, such as a previous heart attack
- if you have a history of stroke
- if you have a history of fits (seizures)
- if you have a history of low sodium levels in your blood (hyponatraemia)
- if you are taking water tablets
- if you have a tendency to develop bruises or a tendency to bleed easily (history of bleeding disorders), or if you are taking other medicines that may increase the risk of bleeding
- if you have raised cholesterol or lipid levels.
- If you take DESTIQ ER near the end of your pregnancy there may be an increased risk of heavy vaginal bleeding shortly after birth, especially if you have a history of bleeding disorders. Your doctor should be aware that you are taking DESTIQ ER so they can advise you.

### - Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. Your doctor should decide whether you can take DESTIQ ER with other medicines.

In particular tell your doctor if you are taking:

- Other medicines to treat depression, for instance MAOIs, other SNRIs, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), tricyclics (e.g. Desipramine) or medicines containing lithium
- Venlafaxine hydrochloride or other products containing desvenlafaxine succinate
- Fentanyl and its analogues (used to manage pain)

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- Dextromethorphan (used as a cough suppressant)
- Tapentadol (helps to relieve pain)
- Meperidine (treat moderate-to-severe pain)
- Methadone (used to treat pain and also for detoxification or maintenance treatment of an opioid drug addiction)
- Pentazocine (used to relieve moderate to severe pain)
- Methylene blue (used to treat methemoglobinemia)
- Triptans (used for migraine)
- Amphetamines (used in the treatment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), sleep disorder and obesity)
- Medicines containing sibutramine (used for weight loss)
- Medicines containing tramadol (used to treat severe pain)
- Products containing St. John's Wort (also called *Hypericum perforatum* a natural or herbal remedy used to treat mild depression)
- Medicine containing linezolid, an antibiotic (used to treat infections)
- Products containing tryptophan (used for problems such as sleep and depression)
- Antipsychotics (used to treat a disease called schizophrenia)
- Medicines containing ketoconazole (an antifungal medicine)
- Medicines containing midazolam (for inducing sleep and treating anxiety).

## How to use DESTIQ ER

### - How much to use

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet. If you do not understand the instructions on the label, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

The usual dose is 50 mg taken once daily with or without food. The maximum dose is 200 mg/day.

If you have kidney problems, talk to your doctor, since your dose of this medicine may need to be different.

The safety and effectiveness of DESTIQ ER in individuals under 18 years of age have not been established.

### - When to use it

Use as directed by your doctor or pharmacist.

DESTIQ ER should be taken at approximately the same time each day with or without food. Tablets must be swallowed whole with fluid and not divided, crushed, chewed, or dissolved.

### - How long to use it

Continue taking DESTIQ ER for as long as your doctor recommends.

### - If you forget to use it

Consult your doctor or pharmacist on what you should do if you forget to use it.

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.

### - If you use too much (overdose)

Contact your doctor immediately or go to the Emergency Department of your nearest hospital if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much of this medicine. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

## While you are using it

### - Things you must do

- Take your medicine exactly as your doctor has told you.
- Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists treating you that you are taking DESTIQ ER.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking this medication.
- If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.
- You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed or have an anxiety disorder and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression or anxiety is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour.
- You should avoid alcohol while you are taking DESTIQ ER.

### - Things you must not do

Do not stop taking the medicine unless advised by your doctor.

Do not take any new medicines without consulting your doctor.

Do not give DESTIQ ER to anyone else, even if they have the same symptoms or condition as you.

### - Things to be careful of

DESTIQ ER is prepared as a matrix tablet that slowly releases the medicine inside your body. You may notice something in your stool that looks like a tablet, but it is an empty matrix. Seeing the empty matrix is not a cause for concern. There is no need to take an extra tablet. The active medication has already been absorbed by the time you see the matrix.

Medicines like DESTIQ ER (so called SSRIs/SNRIs) may cause symptoms of sexual dysfunction. In some cases, these symptoms have continued after stopping treatment.

## Driving and using machines

This medicine may affect your ability to drive or use machines. If the tablets make you feel sick, dizzy or tired, or give you a headache, do not drive or use machines and contact your doctor immediately.

Do not drive or use any tools or machines until you know how this medicine affects you.

## Side effects

Like all medicines, DESTIQ ER can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If any of the following happen, do not take more DESTIQ ER. Tell your doctor immediately, or go to the casualty department at your nearest hospital.

### *Frequent side effects*

- Nausea, dry mouth, constipation, diarrhoea, vomiting
- Fatigue, chills, weakness (asthenia), feeling nervous or anxious
- Headache, dizziness, sleepiness, tremor, pins and needles sensation,

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altered taste sensation, disturbance in attention

- Difficulty sleeping, anxiety, abnormal dreams, nervousness, irritability
- Sweating (including night sweats), rash
- Muscle stiffness, palpitations (feeling your heartbeat), fast heartbeat
- Ringing in the ears (tinnitus), vertigo
- Blurred vision, dilated pupils
- Weight gain or loss, increased blood pressure, decreased appetite, abnormal liver function test
- Sexual dysfunction such as reduced sex drive, lack of orgasm, erectile dysfunction (impotence), abnormal ejaculation/ orgasm (males)
- Yawning, sudden feeling of heat

Side effects are known to occur when people stop using this medicine, especially when it is stopped suddenly or the dose is reduced too quickly. Some patients may experience symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, headache, irritability, diarrhea, anxiety, abnormal dreams, tiredness, and sweating.

Side effects from discontinuing antidepressant medication may occur if you are switched from other antidepressants to DESTIQ ER. Your doctor may gradually reduce the dose of your initial antidepressant medication to help reduce these side effects.

You may report any side effects or adverse drug reactions directly to the National Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring by visiting the website [npra.gov.my](http://npra.gov.my) [Consumers → Reporting Side Effects to Medicines (ConSERF) or Vaccines (AEFI)].

## Storage and Disposal of DESTIQ ER

### - Storage

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Store below 30°C.

### - Disposal

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of

medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## Product Description

### - What it looks like

**DESTIQ EXTENDED RELEASE 50 MG TABLETS:** Light pink colored, round, biconvex, film coated tablets, debossed with '50' on one side and plain on the other side.

**DESTIQ EXTENDED RELEASE 100 MG TABLETS:** Dark brown to red colored, round, biconvex film coated tablets, debossed with '100' on one side and plain on other side.

### - Ingredients

#### Active ingredient:

- Desvenlafaxine succinate

#### Inactive ingredients:

- Hypromellose (Benecel K100M PHARM CR)
- Hypromellose (Methocel K100LV CR)
- Microcrystalline cellulose
- Povidone K-90
- Talc
- Magnesium stearate (Vegetable source)
- Opadry Pink 03F84770 (for 50 mg):
  - HPMC 2910/ Hypromellose (6 cP)
  - Titanium dioxide,
  - Macrogol/ PEG 6000
  - Talc
  - Iron oxide red
- Opadry Brown 03F86990 (for 100mg):
  - HPMC 2910/Hypromellose (6 cP)
  - Titanium dioxide
  - Iron oxide red
  - Macrogol/ PEG 4000
  - Iron oxide black

### - MAL numbers:

#### DESTIQ ER 50 MG TABLETS:

MAL21076008AZ

#### DESTIQ ER 100 MG TABLETS:

MAL21076007AZ

## Manufacturer

Alembic Pharmaceuticals Limited (Formulation Division), Village Panelav, P.O. Tajpura, Near Baska, Taluka Halol, Panchmahal, Gujarat – 389350 India.

## Product Registration Holder

GENPHARMA SDN. BHD.  
Lot 5016, Jalan Teratai,  
5 ½ Mile Off Jalan Meru,  
41050 Klang, Selangor, Malaysia

## Date of revision

24/7/2026

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