

SSRI MEDICATION

Sometimes patients have abnormal and uncomfortable sensations in their skin such as itching and burning. Often there is no specific cause for these abnormal sensations and medicated lotions do not help. These sensations can be quite bothersome, often disturbing sleep and affecting your quality of life. SSRI medications can help relieve these sensations and make you feel better.

SSRI stands for Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors and refers to a group of medications that have similar effects. Some common names of SSRIs are Celexa, Lexapro, Prozac and Zoloft. Although SSRI medications are most commonly prescribed for the treatment of depression and anxiety, many physicians prescribe these medications for the safe and effective treatment of certain skin conditions.

SSRIs are typically taken once per day. It may take two to three weeks for the medication to have its full effect. In most cases, these are very well tolerated. As with any medication, there are potential side effects. Depending on the individual type of SSRI medication prescribed, some of the side effects include sleepiness, anxiety, nausea, dry mouth, diarrhea, constipation, and decreased sexual drive. These side effects are uncommon and happen in few patients and can resolve even while continuing the medication. If you are having a problem with the medications you are concerned about, please call the office.

As with any medication, it is important to let me know what other medication you are taking to make sure that there are no interactions. In addition, if you would start a new medicine, it is important to tell that physician you are taking SSRI medication.

As I noted above, SSRI medication can be very helpful in some of the more frustrating types of skin conditions that produce the abnormal sensations in the skin. It is important to give the medicine a fair shot at helping your problem in terms of taking it regularly for three to four weeks.

If you have any other questions about these medicines, please ask me before you leave the office.