NEW DRUG APPROVAL

Brand Name	Loreev XR®
Generic Name	lorazepam
Drug Manufacturer	Almatica Pharma, LLC

New Drug Approval

FDA Approval Date: August 27, 2021

Review Designation: Standard

Review Type: Type 3 - New Dosage Form; New Drug Application (NDA): 214826

Dispensing Restrictions: N/A

Place in Therapy

DISEASE DESCRIPTION & EPIDEMIOLOGY

Generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) is characterized by persistent and excessive worry about a number of different things. People with GAD may anticipate disaster and may be overly concerned about money, health, family, work, or other issues. Individuals with GAD find it difficult to control their worry. They may worry more than seems warranted about actual events or may expect the worst even when there is no apparent reason for concern.

GAD is diagnosed when a person finds it difficult to control worry on more days than not for at least six months and has three or more symptoms. This differentiates GAD from worry that may be specific to a set stressor or for a more limited period of time.

GAD affects 6.8 million adults, or 3.1% of the U.S. population, in any given year. Women are twice as likely to be affected. The disorder comes on gradually and can begin across the life cycle, though the risk is highest between childhood and middle age. Although the exact cause of GAD is unknown, there is evidence that biological factors, family background, and life experiences, particularly stressful ones, play a role.

Epidemiologic studies of nationally representative samples in the United States have found a lifetime prevalence of GAD of 5.1 percent to 11.9 percent.

The disorder is approximately twice as common in women as it is in men

Efficacy

N/A

Safety

ADVERSE EVENTS

Most frequent adverse reactions: sedation, dizziness, weakness, unsteadiness.

WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS

- CNS Depression: May cause CNS depression. Caution patients receiving Loreev XR® against operating machinery or driving a motor vehicle as well to avoid the concomitant use of alcohol and other CNS depressant drugs during treatment.
- Patients with Depression or Psychosis: Use with caution in patients with signs or symptoms of depression. Prescribe the least number of capsules feasible to avoid intentional overdosage.

- Allergic Reactions to FD&C Yellow No. 5 (Tartrazine): Contains FD&C Yellow No. 5 (tartrazine) which may cause allergic-type reactions (including bronchial asthma) in certain susceptible persons.
- Neonatal Sedation and Withdrawal Syndrome: Use of Loreev XR® during pregnancy can result in neonatal sedation and/or withdrawal.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to benzodiazepines or any ingredients in Loreev XR®.
- Acute narrow-angle glaucoma

Clinical Pharmacology

MECHANISMS OF ACTION

Lorazepam exerts its effect for the treatment of anxiety disorders through binding to the benzodiazepine site of the gamma-aminobutyric acid-A ($GABA_A$) receptors in the brain and enhances GABA-mediated synaptic inhibition.

Dose & Administration

ADULTS

The recommended once daily dosage of Loreev XR® is equal to the total daily dose of lorazepam tablets. For example, the recommended dosage for patients who have been receiving lorazepam tablets at a dosage of 1 mg three times daily is Loreev XR® 3 mg once daily in the morning.

PEDIATRICS

N/A

GERIATRICS

In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should start at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. Greater sensitivity (e.g., sedation) of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

RENAL IMPAIRMENT

N/A

HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT

As with all benzodiazepines, the use of lorazepam, including Loreev XR®, may worsen hepatic encephalopathy. Therefore, Loreev XR® should be used with caution in patients with severe hepatic insufficiency and/or encephalopathy.

Product Availability

DOSAGE FORM(S) & STRENGTH(S)

Extended-release capsules: 1 mg, 1.5 mg, 2 mg, and 3 mg.