Lorcaserin (Belviq, Belviq XR)\textsuperscript{1,2}

**Mechanism of action:** Selective serotonin (5-HT\textsubscript{2c}) receptor agonist, thought to increase satiety by stimulating parts of the 5-HT\textsubscript{2C} serotonin receptor in the hypothalamus and thus affecting appetite and metabolism

**Dose:** 10 mg BID or 20 mg extended release daily. Does not require a titration schedule. Side effects may be experienced immediately. May take 2-4 weeks to reach full therapeutic potential

**Indications:** FDA approved in the 2014 for the long-term treatment of obesity.

**Controlled substance:** schedule IV

**Drug Interactions:** CNS stimulants; alcohol; tricyclic, SSRI and SNRI antidepressants; hypoglycemia in patients with diabetes treated with insulin or sulphonylureas.

**Side effects:** headache, dizziness, fatigue, nausea, dry mouth, dry eyes, cough, constipation, back pain, depression, nasopharygitis, hyperprolactinemia

**Contraindications:** Pregnancy (category X, ensure contraception practices in women of childbearing years), breastfeeding, serotonin syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome, history cardiovascular valvular disease.

**Clinical Pearls**

- The safety of lorcaserin co-administration with other serotonergic or anti-dopaminergic agents is not yet established. Use the following with caution: selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, monoamine oxidase inhibitors, triptans, bupropion, dextromethorphan, St. John’s Wort
- If signs or symptoms of valvular heart disease develop (dyspnea, dependent edema), discontinue Lorcaserin during evaluation for valvulopathy
- Do not combine with phentermine; may increase risk for valvulopathy
- Use with caution with use of hazardous machinery because of the potential for cognitive impairment with disturbances in attention or memory
- Use with caution among patients with psychiatric disorders, including euphoria and dissociation
- May consider patient a non-responder if <5% weight loss at 3 months
- Use with caution among patients with psychiatric disorders and predisposed to depression who should be monitored for depression or suicidal thoughts; discontinue Lorcaserin if symptoms develop

Please refer to the official prescribing information for each product for approved indications, contraindications, and warnings. Clinicians should appraise the information presented critically and are encouraged to consult appropriate resources for any updated information.

\textsuperscript{1} https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=5b42e05f-33dd-49a0-ae24-a316f07a4b8d