

Your medication

Sertraline (Zoloft)



IH-V-123
R.D. 3/03
Pg. 1 of 2

Why do I need this medicine?

Sertraline is a medicine that is used to treat major depression. It is also used to treat persons with obsessive-compulsive disorders. Sertraline helps improve depression by:

- improving your mood.
- improving your ability to enjoy life again.
- improving your energy level.

It sometimes takes 2 to 4 weeks before you begin to feel better.

How do I take this medicine?

- This medicine works best when there is a constant amount in your blood. To help keep the amount constant, do not miss any doses. Take the doses as ordered by your doctor.
- Take your medicine at the same time each day.
- If you do miss a dose take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule.

Do not take two doses at the same time.

What common side effects may I have?

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| • Headache | • Insomnia | • Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach) |
| • Tremor (shaking) | • Dizziness | • Indigestion |
| • Dry mouth | • Loose stools | • Sweating |

What special things do I need to know?

1. **Do not** stop taking sertraline without talking with your doctor. Remember, it may take as long as 4 weeks before you start to feel better.
2. Ask your doctor or pharmacist **before** you take any medicine (specially cold or sinus medicine) you can buy without a prescription.

(over)

3. Tell your doctor if you take any other prescription or non-prescription medicines, specially:
 - MAO inhibitors (phenelzine, Nardil)
 - isocarboxazid (Marplan)
 - tranylcypromine (Parnate)
 - pain relievers or sleeping pills
 - antidepressants
4. This medicine may cause you to become dizzy or sleepy. See how you feel after taking the first dose. If you are sleepy or dizzy stand up slowly after you have been sitting or lying down. If you are dizzy or sleepy, **do not** drive or do other jobs where you need to be alert.
5. **Do not** drink alcohol while you are taking this medicine. Beer, wine, or hard liquor may make you more dizzy or sleepy.
6. You may have a dry mouth when you take this medicine. Hard sugarless candy or chewing gum may help to make this better. Good care of your teeth and gums (brushing and flossing) will also help make your mouth feel better.
7. **Do not** share this medicine with anyone.
8. **Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.** Even a small amount of this medicine may make a child very sick or cause death. Keep all your medicines in a safe place where children cannot get them.
9. If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breast-feeding, tell your doctor **before** you take this medicine. **This medicine may have harmful effects on unborn babies.** If you are not using birth control, be sure and tell your doctor.
10. Make sure to **keep your appointments** for doctor visits and blood tests.
11. Tell your doctor if you are **allergic to any medicine.**
12. All medicines can cause side effects. Usually, these effects will get better after a few days. If they do not, you should tell your doctor. The doctor can make some changes in the medicine. **Do not** stop taking the medicine unless the doctor tells you to. Side effects **do not** mean that you are allergic to the medicine.