

Your medication

Trazodone (Desyrel)



IH-V-126
R.D. 3/03
Pg. 1 of 2

Why do I need this medicine?

Trazodone is an antidepressant that is used for depression. Trazodone helps improve depression by:

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

Trazodone is also used to help you sleep at night.

How do I take this medicine?

- Take this medicine just like the doctor tells you. Most people start feeling better in about 10 days, but sometimes it takes 2 to 4 weeks for the medicine to work.
- Do not stop taking the medicine unless your doctor tells you.
- 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.

- Take trazodone with food to decrease the effects of dizziness.

What common side effects may I have?

- Blurred vision
- Constipation
- Dizziness or sleepiness
- Dry mouth
- Nervousness
- Nausea

Usually these side effects will get better after a few days. If the side effects do **not** get better, talk with your doctor.

What special things do I need to know?

- **Do not** stop taking trazodone without talking with your doctor. Remember, it may take 2 to 4 weeks before you start to feel better.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist **before** you take any medicine (such as cold or sinus medicine) you can buy without a prescription.
- Tell your doctor if you are **allergic to any medicine**.
- **Do not** share this medicine with anyone.
- **Do not** stop taking this medicine suddenly.

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- 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
- 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.
- **Do not** drink alcohol while you are taking this medicine. Beer, wine, or hard liquor may make you more dizzy or sleepy.
- 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.
- Keep all medicine 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.
- 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.
- Make sure to **keep your appointments** for doctor visits and blood tests.
- All medicines can cause side effects. Usually, these side 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.

Call your doctor if you have:

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| • sore throat | • fever |
| • unusual bleeding | • severe headache |
| • unusual bruising | • fast heart beat |
| • blood in your urine | • problems urinating (peeing) |
| • Erections of your penis that are painful or do not go away | |