

your medication



IH-V-132
R.D. 3/03
Pg. 1 of 2

Fluoxetine Hydrochloride (Prozac)

Why do I need this medicine?

Fluoxetine is used to treat major depression. Fluoxetine helps to improve your depression by:

- Improving mood
- Improving your energy level.
- Improving your ability to feel pleasure.

How do I take this medicine?

- Take this medicine just like the doctor told you to.
- Take fluoxetine at the same time each morning. It may keep you up at night if you take it after noon.
- It may take some people 2 to 4 weeks to notice a difference in the way they feel after starting fluoxetine.

What common side effects may I have?

- Headache
- Nervousness
- Insomnia
- Excessive Sweating
- Drowsiness
- Tremors
- Dizziness
- Weight loss
- Fatigue
- Rash
- Upset stomach

What special things do I need to know?

- **Do not** stop taking fluoxetine without talking with your doctor. It may take 2 - 4 weeks for some people to feel better.
- Do not take any other medicine without talking to your doctor. This includes the medicine you can buy at a store without a prescription.
- **Do not** share this medicine with anyone.
- Tell your doctor if you are **allergic to any medicine.**

(over)

- Tell your doctor if you take any other prescription or non-prescription medicines, such as:
 - 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 that children cannot get into.
- 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 thoughts of hurting yourself or other people
- get a rash or hives
- get a sore throat or fever
- have unusual bleeding or bruising
- have a fast heart beat
- have problems urinating (peeing)
- get a very bad headache