

# *Your medication*

## Paroxetine (Paxil)



IH-V-133  
R.D. 3/03  
Pg. 1 of 2

### Why do I need this medicine?

Paroxetine is used to treat major depression and anxiety. It helps to improve your depression by:

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

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

### How do I take this medicine?

- Take this medicine just like the doctor told you
- 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. See your schedule on the back.

### What common side effects may I have?

- Headache
- Sleep problems
- Nausea
- Shakes
- Dizziness
- Frequent loose stools
- Dry mouth
- Upset stomach
- Sweating

### What special things do I need to know?

- **Do not** stop taking paroxetine (Paxil) without talking with your doctor. Remember, it may take as long as 4 weeks before you start to feel better.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist **before** you take any medicine (such as cold or sinus medicine) that you can buy without a prescription.
- **Before** you take this medicine, tell your doctor about any medicine that you have taken in the past 2 weeks.

**(over)**

- 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. 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.
- **Do not** share this medicine with anyone.
- Make sure to **keep your appointments** for doctor visits and blood tests.
- Tell your doctor if you are **allergic to any medicine.**
- 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.

## My Special Instructions

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**Call your doctor if you have any questions.**