

Your medication



IH-V-145
R.D. 3/03
Pg. 1 of 2

Venlafaxine (Effexor)

Why do I need this medicine?

This medicine is used to treat major depression. It helps improve 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 Effexor as many times a day as your doctor tells you. Do not stop taking it unless the doctor tells you to stop.
- 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?

- You may feel sleepy, tired, dizzy, weak, or sick at your stomach.
- You may also sweat more or be more nervous.
- This medicine may cause you to become dizzy or sleepy.

Call your doctor as soon as possible if:

- you have a headache that will not go away
- your eyesight becomes blurry
- you lose weight

(over)

What special things do I need to know?

- Before taking any other medicines (prescription or those you can buy without a prescription) talk to your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you **allergic to any medicine**.
- Do not drink alcohol while you are taking this medicine.
- 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.
- Make sure to **keep your appointments** for doctor visits and blood tests.
- **Do not** share this medicine with anyone.
- 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.
- 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

Call your doctor if you have any questions