

## PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

### Seroxat® 20mg Film-coated Tablets (paroxetine (as hydrochloride hemihydrate))

#### Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### What is in this leaflet:

- What Seroxat is and what it is used for
- What you need to know before you take Seroxat
- How to take Seroxat
- Possible side effects
- How to store Seroxat
- Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What Seroxat is and what it is used for

**Seroxat is a treatment for adults with depression and/or anxiety disorders.** The anxiety disorders that Seroxat is used to treat are: obsessive compulsive disorder (repetitive, obsessive thoughts with uncontrollable behaviour); panic disorder (panic attacks, including those caused by agoraphobia, which is a fear of open spaces); social anxiety disorder (fear or avoidance of social situations); post traumatic stress disorder (anxiety caused by a traumatic event); and generalised anxiety disorder (generally feeling very anxious or nervous).

Seroxat is one of a group of medicines called SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors). Everyone has a substance called serotonin in their brain. People who are depressed or anxious have lower levels of serotonin than others. It is not fully understood how Seroxat and other SSRIs work but they may help by increasing the level of serotonin in the brain. Treating depression or anxiety disorders properly is important to help you get better.

#### 2. What you need to know before you take Seroxat

##### Do not take Seroxat:

- If you are taking medicines called **monoamine oxidase inhibitors** (MAOIs, including moclobemide and methylthionium chloride (methylene blue)), or have taken them at any time within the last two weeks. Your doctor will advise you how you should begin taking Seroxat once you have stopped taking the MAOI
- If you are taking an **anti-psychotic** called thioridazine or an anti-psychotic called pimozide
- If you are **allergic** to paroxetine or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

If any of these apply to you, tell your doctor without taking Seroxat.

##### Warnings and precautions

##### Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Seroxat

- Are you taking any other medicines (see *Taking other medicines and Seroxat*, inside this leaflet)?
- Are you taking tamoxifen to treat breast cancer or fertility problems? Seroxat may make tamoxifen less effective, so your doctor may recommend you take another antidepressant.
- Do you have kidney, liver or heart trouble?
- Do you have epilepsy or have a history of fits or seizures?
- Have you ever had episodes of mania (overactive behaviour or thoughts)?
- Are you having electro-convulsive therapy (ECT)?
- Do you have a history of bleeding disorders, or are you taking other medicines that may increase the risk of bleeding (these include medicines used to thin the blood, such as warfarin, anti-psychotics such as perphenazine or clozapine, tricyclic antidepressants, medicines used for pain and inflammation called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs, such as acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, celecoxib, etodolac, diclofenac, meloxicam)?
- Do you have diabetes?
- Are you on a low sodium diet?
- Do you have glaucoma (pressure in the eye)?
- Are you pregnant or planning to get pregnant (see *Pregnancy, breast-feeding and Seroxat*, inside this leaflet)?
- Are you under 18 years old (see *Children and adolescents under 18*, inside this leaflet)?

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions, and you have not already discussed them with your doctor, **go back to your doctor and ask what to do about taking Seroxat.**

##### Children and adolescents under 18

**Seroxat should not be used for children and adolescents under 18 years.** Also, patients under 18 have an increased risk of side effects such as suicide attempt, suicidal thoughts and hostility (predominantly aggression, oppositional behaviour and anger) when they take Seroxat. If your doctor has prescribed Seroxat for you (or your child) and you want to discuss this, please go back to your doctor. You should inform your doctor if any of the symptoms listed above develop or worsen when you (or your child) are taking Seroxat. Also, the long-term safety effects concerning growth, maturation and cognitive and behavioural development of Seroxat in this age group have not yet been demonstrated.

In studies of Seroxat in under 18s, common side effects that affected less than 1 in 10 children/adolescents were: an increase in suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts; deliberately harming themselves; being hostile; aggressive or unfriendly; lack of appetite; shaking; abnormal sweating; hyperactivity (having too much energy); agitation; changing emotions (including crying and changes in mood); and unusual bruising or bleeding (such as nose bleeds). These studies also showed that the same symptoms affected children and adolescents taking sugar pills (placebo) instead of Seroxat, although these were seen less often.

Some patients in these studies of under 18s had withdrawal effects when they stopped taking Seroxat. These effects were mostly similar to those seen in adults after stopping Seroxat (see Section 3, *How to take Seroxat*, inside this leaflet). In addition, patients under 18 also commonly (affecting less than 1 in 10) experienced stomach ache, feeling nervous and changing emotions (including crying, changes in mood, trying to hurt themselves, thoughts of suicide and attempting suicide).

##### Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression or anxiety disorder

If you are depressed and/or have anxiety disorders you can sometimes have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. These may be increased when first starting antidepressants, since these medicines all take time to work, usually about two weeks but sometimes longer.

##### You may be more likely to think like this:

- If you have previously had thoughts about killing or harming yourself.
- If you are a **young adult**. Information from clinical trials has shown an increased risk of suicidal behaviour in adults aged less than 25 years with psychiatric conditions who were treated with an antidepressant.

If you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself at any time, **contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.**

**You may find it helpful to tell a relative or close friend** that you are depressed or have an anxiety disorder, and ask them to read this leaflet. You might ask them to tell you if they think your depression or anxiety is getting worse, or if they are worried about changes in your behaviour.

##### Important side effects seen with Seroxat

Some patients who take Seroxat develop something called akathisia, where they **feel restless and feel like they can't sit or stand still**. Other patients develop something called **serotonin syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome**, where they have some or all of the following symptoms: feeling very agitated or irritable, feeling confused, feeling restless, feeling hot, sweating, shaking, shivering, hallucinations (strange visions or sounds), muscle stiffness, sudden jerks of the muscles or a fast heartbeat. The severity can increase, leading to loss of consciousness. If you notice any of these symptoms, **contact your doctor**. For more information on these or other side effects of Seroxat, see Section 4, *Possible Side Effects*, inside this leaflet.

##### Other medicines and Seroxat

Some medicines can affect the way Seroxat works, or make it more likely that you'll have side effects. Seroxat can also affect the way some other medicines work. These include:

- Medicines called **monoamine oxidase inhibitors** (MAOIs, including moclobemide and methylthionium chloride (methylene blue)) – see *Do not take Seroxat*, inside this leaflet
- Thioridazine or pimozide, which are **anti-psychotics** – see *Do not take Seroxat*, inside this leaflet
- Acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen or other medicines called NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) like celecoxib, etodolac, diclofenac and meloxicam, used for **pain and inflammation**
- Tramadol and pethidine, **painkillers**
- Medicines called triptans, such as sumatriptan, used to treat **migraine**
- Other **antidepressants** including other SSRIs and tricyclic antidepressants like clomipramine, nortriptyline and desipramine
- A dietary **supplement** called tryptophan
- Mivacurium and suxamethonium (used in anaesthesia)
- Medicines such as lithium, risperidone, perphenazine, clozapine (called anti-psychotics) used to treat some **psychiatric conditions**
- Fentanyl, used in **anaesthesia** or to treat **chronic pain**
- A combination of fosamprenavir and ritonavir, which is used to treat **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection**
- St John's Wort, a herbal remedy for **depression**
- Phenobarbital, phenytoin, sodium valproate or carbamazepine, used to treat **fits or epilepsy**
- Atomoxetine which is used to treat **attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)**
- Procyclidine, used to relieve tremor, especially in **Parkinson's Disease**
- Warfarin or other medicines (called anticoagulants) used to **thin the blood**
- Propafenone, flecainide and medicines used to treat an **irregular heartbeat**
- Metoprolol, a beta-blocker used to treat **high blood pressure and heart problems**
- Pravastatin, used to treat **high cholesterol**
- Rifampicin, used to treat **tuberculosis (TB)** and **leprosy**
- Linezolid, an **antibiotic**
- Tamoxifen, which is used to **treat breast cancer or fertility problems**.

If you are taking or have recently taken any of the medicines in this list, and you have not already discussed these with your doctor, **go back to your doctor and ask what to do**. The dose may need to be changed or you may need to be given another medicine.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines**, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

##### Seroxat with food, drink and alcohol

Do not drink alcohol while you are taking Seroxat. Alcohol may make your symptoms or side effects worse. Taking Seroxat in the morning with food will reduce the likelihood of you feeling sick (nausea).

##### Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine. In babies whose mothers took Seroxat during the first few months of pregnancy, there have been some reports showing an increased risk of birth defects, in particular those affecting the heart. In the general population, about 1 in 100 babies are born with a heart defect. This increased to up to 2 in 100 babies in mothers who took Seroxat. You and your doctor may decide that it is better for you to change to another treatment or to gradually stop taking Seroxat while you are pregnant. However, depending on your circumstances, your doctor may suggest that it is better for you to keep taking Seroxat.

##### Make sure your midwife or doctor knows you're taking Seroxat.

When taken during pregnancy, particularly late pregnancy, medicines like Seroxat may increase the risk of a serious condition in babies, called persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN). In PPHN, the blood pressure in the blood vessels between the baby's heart and the lungs is too high. If you take Seroxat during the last 3 months of pregnancy, your newborn baby might also have other conditions, which usually begin during the first 24 hours after birth. Symptoms include:

- trouble with breathing
- a blue-ish skin or being too hot or cold
- blue lips
- vomiting or not feeding properly
- being very tired, not able to sleep or crying a lot
- stiff or floppy muscles
- tremors, jitters or fits
- exaggerated reflexes.

If your baby has any of these symptoms when it is born, or you are concerned about your baby's health, **contact your doctor or midwife who will be able to advise you.**

**Seroxat may get into breast milk in very small amounts.** If you are taking Seroxat, go back and talk to your doctor before you start breast-feeding. You and your doctor may decide that you can breast-feed while you're taking Seroxat.

Paroxetine has been shown to reduce the quality of sperm in animal studies. Theoretically, this could affect fertility, but impact on human fertility has not been observed as yet.

##### Driving and using machines

Possible side effects of Seroxat include dizziness, confusion, feeling sleepy or blurred vision. If you do get these side effects, do not drive or use machinery.

#### 3. How to take Seroxat

**Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you.** Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Sometimes you may need to take more than one tablet or half a tablet. This table will show you how many tablets to take.

Dose	Number of tablets to take
10mg	One white to pinkish-white tablet <b>or</b> Half a white tablet
20mg	One white tablet <b>or</b> Two white to pinkish-white tablets
30mg	One blue tablet <b>or</b> One-and-a-half white tablets <b>or</b> One white tablet + one white to pinkish-white tablet <b>or</b> Three white to pinkish-white tablets
40mg	Two white tablets <b>or</b> One blue tablet + one white to pinkish-white tablet <b>or</b> Four white to pinkish-white tablets
50mg	One blue tablet + one white tablet <b>or</b> Two-and-a-half white tablets <b>or</b> Two white tablets + one white to pinkish-white tablet <b>or</b> Five white to pinkish-white tablets
60mg	Two blue tablets <b>or</b> Three white tablets <b>or</b> Six white to pinkish-white tablets

The usual doses for different conditions are set out in the table below.

	Starting dose	Recommended daily dose	Maximum daily dose
Depression	20mg	20mg	50mg
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	20mg	40mg	60mg
Panic Disorder	10mg	40mg	60mg
Social Anxiety Disorder	20mg	20mg	50mg
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	20mg	20mg	50mg
Generalised Anxiety Disorder	20mg	20mg	50mg

**Your doctor will advise you what dose to take when you first start taking Seroxat.** Most people start to feel better after a couple of weeks. If you don't start to feel better after this time, talk to your doctor, who will advise you. He or she may decide to increase the dose gradually, 10mg at a time, up to a maximum daily dose.

**Take your tablets in the morning with food. Swallow them with a drink of water. Do not chew.**

Your doctor will talk to you about how long you will need to keep taking your tablets. This may be for many months or even longer.

#### Older people

The maximum dose for people over 65 is 40mg per day.

#### Patients with liver or kidney disease

If you have trouble with your liver or severe kidney disease, your doctor may decide that you should have a lower dose of Seroxat than usual.

#### If you take more Seroxat than you should

**Never take more tablets than your doctor recommends.** If you take too many Seroxat tablets (or someone else does), tell your doctor or a hospital straight away. Show them the pack of tablets.

Someone who has taken an overdose of Seroxat may have any one of the symptoms listed in section 4, *Possible side effects*, or the following symptoms: fever; uncontrollable tightening of the muscles.

#### If you forget to take Seroxat

Take your medicine at the same time every day.

**If you do forget a dose, and you remember before you go to bed,** take it straight away. Carry on as usual the next day.

**If you only remember during the night, or the next day,** leave out the missed dose. You may possibly get withdrawal effects, but these should go away after you take your next dose at the usual time.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

#### What to do if you're feeling no better

**Seroxat will not relieve your symptoms straight away** – all antidepressants take time to work. Some people will start to feel better within a couple of weeks, but for others it may take a little longer. Some people taking antidepressants feel worse before feeling better. If you don't start to feel better after a couple of weeks, go back to your doctor who will advise you.

Your doctor should ask to see you again a couple of weeks after you first start treatment. Tell your doctor if you haven't started to feel better.

#### If you stop taking Seroxat

**Do not stop taking Seroxat until your doctor tells you to.**

**When stopping Seroxat,** your doctor will help you to reduce your dose slowly over a number of weeks or months – this should help reduce the chance of withdrawal effects. One way of doing this is to gradually reduce the dose of Seroxat you take by 10mg a week. Most people find that any symptoms on stopping Seroxat are mild and go away on their own within two weeks. For some people, these symptoms may be more severe, or go on for longer.

**If you get withdrawal effects** when you are coming off your tablets your doctor may decide that you should come off them more slowly. If you get severe withdrawal effects when you stop taking Seroxat, please see your doctor. He or she may ask you to start taking your tablets again and come off them more slowly.

**If you do get withdrawal effects, you will still be able to stop Seroxat.**

#### Possible withdrawal effects when stopping treatment

Studies show that 3 in 10 patients notice one or more symptoms on stopping Seroxat. Some withdrawal effects on stopping occur more frequently than others.

#### Common side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in 10 people:

- Feeling dizzy, unsteady or off-balance
- Feelings like pins and needles, burning sensations and (less commonly) electric shock sensations, including in the head, and buzzing, hissing, whistling, ringing or other persistent noise in the ears (tinnitus)
- Sleep disturbances (vivid dreams, nightmares, inability to sleep)
- Feeling anxious
- Headaches.

#### Uncommon side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 100 people:

- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Sweating (including night sweats)
- Feeling restless or agitated
- Tremor (shakiness)
- Feeling confused or disorientated
- Diarrhoea (loose stools)
- Feeling emotional or irritable
- Visual disturbances
- Fluttering or pounding heartbeat (palpitations).

#### Please see your doctor if you are worried about withdrawal effects when stopping Seroxat.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Side effects are more likely to happen in the first few weeks of taking Seroxat.

#### See the doctor if you get any of the following side effects during treatment.

You may need to contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.

#### Uncommon side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 100 people:

- If you have unusual bruising or bleeding,** including vomiting blood or passing blood in your stools, **contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away**
- If you find that you are not able to pass water,** **contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.**

#### Rare side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 1,000 people:

- If you experience seizures (fits), contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.**
- If you feel restless and feel like you can't sit or stand still,** you may have something called akathisia. Increasing your dose of Seroxat may make these feelings worse. If you feel like this, **contact your doctor.**
- If you feel tired, weak or confused and have achy, stiff or uncoordinated muscles** this may be because your blood is low in sodium. If you have these symptoms, **contact your doctor.**

#### Very rare side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 10,000 people:

- Allergic reactions, which may be severe to Seroxat.**  
If you develop a red and lumpy skin rash, swelling of the eyelids, face, lips, mouth or tongue, start to itch or have difficulty breathing (shortness of breath) or swallowing and feel weak or lightheaded resulting in collapse or loss of consciousness, **contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away.**
- If you have some or all of the following symptoms** you may have something called **serotonin syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome.** The symptoms include: feeling very agitated or irritable, feeling confused, feeling restless, feeling hot, sweating, shaking, shivering, hallucinations (strange visions or sounds), muscle stiffness, sudden jerks of the muscles or a fast heartbeat. The severity can increase, leading to loss of consciousness. If you feel like this **contact your doctor.**
- Acute glaucoma**  
If your eyes become painful and you develop blurred vision, **contact your doctor.**

#### Frequency unknown

- Some people have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves while taking SEROXAT or soon after stopping treatment (see Section 2, Before you take SEROXAT).
- Some people have experienced aggression while taking SEROXAT

**If you experience these side effects, contact your doctor.**

#### Other possible side effects during treatment

#### Very common side effects, likely to affect more than 1 in 10 people:

- Feeling sick (nausea). Taking your medicine in the morning with food will reduce the chance of this happening
- Change in sex drive or sexual function. For example, lack of orgasm and, in men, abnormal erection and ejaculation.

#### Common side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in 10 people:

- Increases in the level of cholesterol in the blood
- Lack of appetite
- Not sleeping well (insomnia) or feeling sleepy
- Abnormal dreams (including nightmares)
- Feeling dizzy or shaky (tremors)
- Headache
- Difficulty in concentrating
- Feeling agitated
- Feeling unusually weak
- Blurred vision
- Yawning, dry mouth
- Diarrhoea or constipation
- Vomiting
- Weight gain
- Sweating.

#### Uncommon side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 100 people:

- A brief increase in blood pressure, or a brief decrease that may make you feel dizzy or faint when you stand up suddenly
- A faster than normal heartbeat
- Lack of movement, stiffness, shaking or abnormal movements in the mouth and tongue
- Dilated pupils
- Skin rashes
- Itching
- Feeling confused
- Having hallucinations (strange visions or sounds)
- An inability to urinate (urinary retention) or an uncontrollable, involuntary passing of urine (urinary incontinence)
- If you are a diabetic patient you may notice a loss of control of your blood sugar levels whilst taking SEROXAT. Please speak to your doctor about adjusting the dosage of your insulin or diabetes medications.

#### Rare side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 1000 people:

- Abnormal production of breast milk in men and women
- A slow heartbeat
- Effects on the liver showing up in blood tests of your liver function
- Panic attacks
- Overactive behaviour or thoughts (mania)
- Feeling detached from yourself (depersonalisation)
- Feeling anxious
- Irresistible urge to move the legs (Restless Legs Syndrome)
- Pain in the joints or muscles
- Increase in a hormone called prolactin in the blood
- Menstrual period disorders (including heavy or irregular periods, bleeding between periods and absence or delay of periods).

#### Very rare side effects, likely to affect up to 1 in every 10,000 people:

- Skin rash, which may blister, and looks like small targets (central dark spots surrounded by a paler area, with a dark ring around the edge) called erythema multiforme
- A widespread rash with blisters and peeling skin, particularly around the mouth, nose, eyes and genitals (Stevens-Johnson syndrome)
- A widespread rash with blisters and skin peeling on much of the body surface (toxic epidermal necrolysis)
- Liver problems that make the skin or whites of the eyes go yellow
- Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone production (SIADH) which is a condition in which the body develops an excess of water and a decrease in sodium (salt) concentration, as a result of improper chemical signals. Patients with SIADH may become severely ill, or may have no symptoms at all
- Fluid or water retention (which may cause swelling of the arms or legs)
- Sensitivity to sunlight
- Painful erection of the penis that won't go away
- Low blood platelet count.

Some patients have developed buzzing, hissing, whistling, ringing or other persistent noise in the ears (tinnitus) when they take Seroxat.

An increased risk of bone fractures has been observed in patients taking this type of medicine.

#### Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRC Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2  
Tel: +353 1 6764971 Fax: +353 1 6762517  
Website: www.hpra.ie E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store Seroxat

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the blister and the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

Store in the original package (to protect from light). If you are using half tablets, be careful to keep them safely in the pack.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away any medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### What Seroxat contains

Each film-coated tablet contains 20mg paroxetine (as hydrochloride hemihydrate), as the active ingredient.

The other ingredients are: dibasic calcium phosphate dihydrate, magnesium stearate, sodium starch glycolate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide (E171), macrogol and polysorbate.

#### What Seroxat looks like and contents of the pack

Seroxat 20mg film-coated tablets are white, oval shaped biconvex tablets debossed with "20" on one side and a break bar on the other.

Your tablets are available in packs of 30 tablets.

#### Manufacturer

Manufactured by: GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals S.A., ul. Grunwaldzka 189, 60-322 Poznań, Poland

or  
S.C. Europharm S.A., 2 Panselelor St, Brasov, County of Brasov, 500419, Romania.

Procured from within the EU and repackaged by: Doncaster Pharmaceuticals Group Ltd, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster, DN3 1QR, UK.

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You may find it helpful to contact a self-help group, or patient organisation, to find out more about your condition. Your doctor will be able to give you details.