

## Patient Education

### TRAZODONE - ORAL

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you. Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

#### TRAZODONE - ORAL

(TRAZZ-oh-doan)

COMMON BRAND NAME(S): Desyrel

#### USES:

This medication is used to treat depression. It may take 2 to 3 weeks before the full effects of this medication are noticed.

#### OTHER USES:

This medication may also be used for relief of symptoms of an anxiety disorder (e.g., sleeplessness, tension), or to treat chronic pain.

#### HOW TO USE:

May be taken with food to prevent stomach upset.

Take this as prescribed. Try to take each dose at the same time(s) each day so you remember to routinely take it.

Do not stop taking this medication without your doctor's approval. Nausea, headache or fatigue can occur if the drug is suddenly stopped.

#### SIDE EFFECTS:

This drug may cause drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision, loss of appetite, dry mouth, strange taste in mouth, anxiety, restlessness or sweating. If these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor promptly.

Notify your doctor promptly if you develop: chest pain, rapid heart rate, shortness of breath, difficulty urinating, blood in the urine, nightmares, uncoordinated movements.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: black stools, "coffee ground" vomit, easy bruising/bleeding.

Males - if you experience painful and prolonged erections, stop using this drug and seek immediate medical attention.

In the unlikely event you have an allergic reaction to this drug, seek immediate medical attention. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing.

If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

**PRECAUTIONS:**

Tell your doctor your medical history, especially if you have: heart disease, liver disease, kidney disease, blood pressure problems, any allergies (including nefazodone).

Use caution performing tasks requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery.

To avoid dizziness and lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, get up slowly.

Alcoholic beverages can add to the drowsiness caused by this drug. Limit alcohol intake.

Though uncommon, depression itself can lead to thoughts or attempts of suicide. Tell your doctor immediately if you have any suicidal thoughts, or other mental/mood changes. Keep all medical appointments so your doctor can monitor your progress closely.

Elderly patients may be more sensitive to the effects of trazodone. Use cautiously.

Trazodone should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

Trazodone is excreted into breast milk. Though to date, no problems have been reported to nursing infants, consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Tell your doctor of any over-the-counter or prescription drugs you are taking, especially: digoxin, phenytoin or other anti-seizure drugs, antihistamines, medicine for allergies or colds, sedatives, tranquilizers, barbiturates (e.g., phenobarbital), narcotic pain relievers, drugs which affect certain liver enzymes (CYP 3A4 substrates, inhibitors, and inducers such as azole antifungals, macrolide antibiotics, cimetidine, rifamycins, St John's wort, certain anti-seizure medications), other drugs which can cause bleeding/bruising (e.g., thrombolytic drugs such as TPA, anticoagulants such as heparin or warfarin, antiplatelet drugs including NSAIDs such as ibuprofen), other medicine for depression (e.g., SSRIs such as fluoxetine), sleeping aids, drugs for high blood pressure, ginkgo.

Low-dose aspirin (usually 81-325 mg per day) for heart attack or stroke prevention should be continued unless your doctor instructs you otherwise. Aspirin is similar to NSAID drugs, and can increase the risk of bleeding in combination with this medication (see above). Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

Before you have surgery with a general anesthetic, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist you are taking trazodone.

Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

**OVERDOSE:**

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. US residents can call the US national poison hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Canadian residents should call their local poison control center directly. Symptoms of overdose may include slow, rapid or irregular pulse; unusual drowsiness or dizziness; vomiting; weakness; loss of consciousness; and seizures.

**NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others.

**MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered unless it is within 4 hours of the next dose. In that case, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

**STORAGE:**

Store at room temperature between 59 and 86 degrees F (between 15 and 30 degrees C) away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.