

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

^{Pr}NTP-PAROXETINE

(Paroxetine as Paroxetine Hydrochloride Acetone Solvate)

10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg Tablets

Antidepressant – Antiobsessional – Antipanic – Anxiolytic Agent
Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder) – Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Therapy

Teva Canada Ltd.
30 Novopharm Court
Toronto, Ontario
Canada, M1B 2K9

Date of Preparation:
September 23, 2013

Submission Control No: 167607

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PrNTP-PAROXETINE

(Paroxetine as Paroxetine Hydrochloride Acetone Solvate)

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	Clinically Relevant Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Oral	Tablets 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg	No clinically relevant nonmedical ingredients <i>For a complete listing see Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section.</i>

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

Adults

Depression

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is indicated for symptomatic relief of Major Depressive Disorder (MDD).

Clinical trials have provided evidence that continuation treatment with paroxetine hydrochloride in patients with moderate to moderately severe depressive disorder is effective for at least 6 months (see CLINICAL TRIALS - Depression).

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). The obsessions or compulsions must be experienced as intrusive, markedly distressing, time-consuming, or interfering significantly with the person's social or occupational functioning.

Panic Disorder

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of panic disorder, with or without agoraphobia.

Panic disorder (DSM-IV) is characterized by recurrent unexpected panic attacks, i.e., a discrete period of intense fear or discomfort in which four (or more) of the following symptoms develop abruptly and reach a peak within 10 minutes: (1) palpitations, pounding heart, or accelerated heart rate; (2) sweating; (3) trembling or shaking; (4) sensations of shortness of breath or smothering; (5) feeling of choking; (6) chest pain or discomfort; (7) nausea or abdominal distress;

(8) feeling dizzy, unsteady, lightheaded, or faint; (9) derealization (feelings of unreality) or depersonalization (being detached from oneself); (10) fear of losing control; (11) fear of dying; (12) paresthesias (numbness or tingling sensations); (13) chills or hot flushes.

Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder)

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is indicated for the symptomatic relief of generalized social phobia (social anxiety disorder), a disorder characterized by marked and persistent fear, anxious anticipation, or avoidance of multiple social situations (e.g. interacting with strangers, attending social gatherings, dealing with authority figures) and/or performance situations (e.g. eating, writing, working while being observed, or public speaking). A diagnosis of social phobia/social anxiety disorder should not be made unless the fear, anxious anticipation, or avoidance of social and/or performance situations interferes significantly with the person's normal routine, occupational functioning, or social life, or causes marked distress.

Generalized Anxiety Disorder

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is indicated for the symptomatic relief of anxiety causing significant distress in patients with Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD).

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is indicated for the symptomatic treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

PTSD as defined by DSM-IV requires exposure to a traumatic event that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or threat to the physical integrity of self or others, and a response which involves intense fear, helplessness, or horror. Symptoms that occur as a result of exposure to the traumatic event include reexperiencing of the event in the form of intrusive thoughts, flashbacks or dreams, and intense psychological distress and physiological reactivity on exposure to clues to the event; avoidance of situations reminiscent of the traumatic event, inability to recall details of the event, and/or numbing of general responsiveness manifested as diminished interest in significant activities, estrangement from others, restricted range of affect, or sense of foreshortened future; and symptoms of autonomic arousal including hypervigilance, exaggerated startle response, sleep disturbance, impaired concentration, and irritability or outbursts of anger.

A diagnosis of PTSD requires that the symptoms are present for at least one month and that they cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.

Long term use of NTP-PAROXETINE

The effectiveness of paroxetine hydrochloride in long-term use (i.e. more than 8 weeks for GAD and 12 weeks for other indications) has not yet been established in controlled trials for OCD, panic disorder, social phobia (social anxiety disorder), generalized anxiety disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder. Therefore, the physician who elects to use NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) for extended periods in these indications should periodically re-evaluate the long term usefulness of the drug for individual patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Dosing Considerations).

Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age)

Evidence from clinical studies indicates that there are differences in the pharmacokinetic profile of paroxetine hydrochloride in the geriatric population relative to younger adults, which may be associated with differences in safety or effectiveness. A brief discussion can be found in the appropriate sections (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Special Populations - Geriatrics, ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY - Special Populations and Conditions - Geriatrics , DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Geriatrics*)

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is not indicated for use in patients below the age of 18 years (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - General - POTENTIAL ASSOCIATION WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING SELF HARM)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity: NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is contraindicated in patients who are known to be hypersensitive to the drug or any of its components. For a complete listing, see DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING.

Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors: In patients receiving another serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in combination with a MAO inhibitor, there have been reports of serious, sometimes fatal, reactions including hyperthermia, rigidity, myoclonus, autonomic instability with possible rapid fluctuations of vital signs, and mental status changes that include extreme agitation progressing to delirium and coma. These reactions have also been reported in patients who have recently discontinued SSRI treatment and have begun treatment on a MAO inhibitor. Some cases presented with features resembling serotonin syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome). Therefore, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should not be used in combination with MAO inhibitors or within a minimum of 2 weeks of terminating treatment with MAO inhibitors. Treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should then be initiated cautiously and dosage increased gradually until optimal response is reached. MAO inhibitors should not be introduced within 2 weeks of cessation of therapy with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride).

Thioridazine: Thioridazine administration alone produces prolongation of the QTc interval, which is associated with serious ventricular arrhythmias, such as torsade de pointes-type arrhythmias, and sudden death. This effect appears to be dose-related. An *in vivo* study suggests that drugs which inhibit P450 2D6, including certain SSRIs such as paroxetine hydrochloride, fluoxetine and fluvoxamine, will elevate plasma levels of thioridazine. Therefore, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should not be used in combination with thioridazine or within a minimum of 2 weeks of terminating treatment with thioridazine. At least 2 weeks should be allowed after discontinuing NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) therapy before initiating treatment with thioridazine.

Pimozide: The concomitant use of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) and

pimozide is contraindicated as paroxetine hydrochloride has been shown to increase plasma pimozide levels. Elevation of pimozide blood concentration may result in QT interval prolongation and severe arrhythmias including torsade de pointes-type (see DRUG INTERACTIONS - [Drug-Drug Interactions](#) - Pimozide)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

General

POTENTIAL ASSOCIATION WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING SELF-HARM.

Pediatrics: Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial Data

- **Recent analyses of placebo-controlled clinical trial safety databases from SSRIs and other newer anti-depressants suggests that use of these drugs in patients under the age of 18 may be associated with behavioural and emotional changes, including an increased risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour over that of placebo.**
- **The small denominators in the clinical trial database, as well as the variability in placebo rates, preclude reliable conclusions on the relative safety profiles among these drugs.**

Adult and Pediatrics: Additional Data

- **There are clinical trial and post-marketing reports with SSRIs and other newer anti-depressants, in both pediatrics and adults, of severe agitation-type adverse events coupled with self-harm or harm to others. The agitation-type events include: akathisia, agitation, disinhibition, emotional lability, hostility, aggression, depersonalization. In some cases, the events occurred within several weeks of starting treatment.**

Rigorous clinical monitoring for suicidal ideation or other indicators of potential for suicidal behaviour is advised in patients of all ages. This includes monitoring for agitation-type emotional and behavioural changes.

Discontinuation Symptoms: Patients currently taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should not be discontinued abruptly, due to risk of discontinuation symptoms. At the time that a medical decision is made to discontinue an SSRI or other newer anti-depressant drug, a gradual reduction in the dose rather than an abrupt cessation is recommended.

Discontinuation of Treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE

When discontinuing treatment, regardless of the indication for which NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is being prescribed, patients should be monitored for symptoms which may be associated with discontinuation (e.g. dizziness, sleep disturbances including abnormal dreams, sensory disturbances (including paresthesias, electric shock sensations and tinnitus), agitation, anxiety, headache, tremor, confusion, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and sweating or other

symptoms which may be of clinical significance [see ADVERSE REACTIONS - Adverse Events following Discontinuation of Treatment (or Dose Reduction) - *Post-marketing*]. A gradual reduction in the dose rather than abrupt cessation is recommended whenever possible. If intolerable symptoms occur following a decrease in the dose or upon discontinuation of treatment, dose titration should be managed on the basis of the patient's clinical response (see ADVERSE REACTIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

NTP-PAROXETINE Treatment During Pregnancy Effects on Newborns

Epidemiological studies of pregnancy outcomes following maternal exposure to antidepressants in the first trimester have reported an increase in the risk of congenital malformations, particularly cardiovascular (e.g. ventricular and atrial septal defects), associated with the use of paroxetine hydrochloride. If a patient becomes pregnant while taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride), consideration should be given to switching to other treatment options. Treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should only be continued for an individual pregnant patient, if the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks. Initiation of paroxetine hydrochloride, for women who intend to become pregnant, or are in their first trimester of pregnancy, should be considered only after other treatment options have been evaluated (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Special Populations - Pregnant Women and Newborns)

Post-marketing reports indicate that some neonates exposed to paroxetine hydrochloride, SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors), or other newer anti-depressants late in the third trimester have developed complications requiring prolonged hospitalization, respiratory support, and tube feeding. Such complications can arise immediately upon delivery. When treating a pregnant woman with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) during the third trimester, the physician should carefully consider the potential risks and benefits of treatment (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Special Populations - Pregnant Women and Newborns, DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Treatment of Pregnant Women*).

Psychomotor Impairment

Although paroxetine hydrochloride did not cause sedation or interfere with psychomotor performance in placebo-controlled studies in normal subjects, patients should be advised to avoid driving a car or operating hazardous machinery until they are reasonably certain that NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) does not affect them adversely.

The following additional precautions are listed alphabetically.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

See TOXICOLOGY for animal data.

Cardiovascular

Paroxetine hydrochloride has not been evaluated or used to any appreciable extent in patients with a recent history of myocardial infarction or unstable heart disease. The usual precautions should be observed in patients with cardiac conditions.

Concomitant Illnesses

Clinical experience with paroxetine hydrochloride in patients with certain concomitant systemic illnesses is limited. Caution is advisable in using NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) in patients with diseases or conditions that could affect metabolism or hemodynamic responses.

Dependence Liability

Paroxetine hydrochloride has not been systematically studied, in animals or humans, for its potential for abuse, tolerance, or physical dependence. Physicians should carefully evaluate patients for history of drug abuse and follow such patients closely, observing them for signs of misuse or abuse of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride).

Hematologic

Abnormal Bleeding: There have been several reports of abnormal bleeding (mostly ecchymosis) associated with paroxetine hydrochloride treatment, including a report of impaired platelet aggregation. While a causal relationship to paroxetine hydrochloride is unclear, impaired platelet aggregation may result from platelet serotonin depletion and contribute to such occurrences.

Skin and mucous membrane bleedings (including upper gastrointestinal bleeding) have been reported following treatment with paroxetine hydrochloride. Paroxetine hydrochloride should therefore be used with caution in patients concomitantly treated with drugs that give an increased risk for bleeding (e.g. anticoagulants, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories and ASA) and in patients with a known tendency for bleeding or those with predisposing conditions.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Hepatic Impairment: Pharmacokinetic studies of paroxetine hydrochloride in subjects with clinically significant hepatic impairment suggest that prolongation of the elimination half-life and increased plasma levels can be expected in this patient group. NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be used with caution and dosages restricted to the lower end of the range in patients with clinically significant hepatic impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations – Renal/Hepatic Impairment, ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY - Special Populations and Conditions - Hepatic Insufficiency)

Neurologic

Epilepsy: As with other antidepressants, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be used with caution in patients with epilepsy.

Seizures: During clinical trials, the overall incidence of seizures was 0.15% in patients treated with paroxetine hydrochloride. However, patients with a history of convulsive disorders were excluded from these studies. Caution is recommended when the drug is administered to patients with a history of seizures. The drug should be discontinued in any patient who develops seizures.

Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome: On rare occasions serotonin

syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome-like events have occurred in association with treatment of paroxetine hydrochloride, particularly when given in combination with other serotonergic and/or neuroleptic/antipsychotic drugs. As these syndromes may result in potentially life-threatening conditions, treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be discontinued if patients develop a combination of symptoms possibly including hyperthermia, rigidity, myoclonus, autonomic instability with possible rapid fluctuations of vital signs, mental status changes including confusion, irritability, extreme agitation progressing to delirium and coma and symptomatic treatment should be initiated. Due to the risk of serotonergic syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should not be used in combination with MAO inhibitors or serotonin-precursors (such as L-tryptophan, oxitriptan) and should be used with caution in patients receiving other serotonergic drugs (triptans, lithium, tramadol, St. John's Wort, most tricyclic antidepressants) or neuroleptics/antipsychotics (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and DRUG INTERACTIONS – Serotonergic Drugs).

Ophthalmologic

Glaucoma: As with other SSRIs, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) infrequently causes mydriasis and should be used with caution in patients with narrow angle glaucoma.

Psychiatric

Suicide: The possibility of a suicide attempt is inherent in depression and may persist until remission occurs. Patients with depression may experience worsening of their depressive symptoms and/or the emergence of suicidal ideation and behaviours (suicidality) whether or not they are taking antidepressant medications. Notwithstanding, high risk patients should be closely supervised throughout therapy with appropriate consideration to the possible need for hospitalization. In order to minimize the opportunity for overdose, prescriptions for NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be written for the smallest quantity of drug consistent with good patient management.

Because of the well established comorbidity between depression and other psychiatric disorders, the same precautions observed when treating patients with depression should be observed when treating patients with other psychiatric disorders (see WARNING AND PRECAUTIONS - General - POTENTIAL ASSOCIATION WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING SELF-HARM)

Activation of Mania/Hypomania: During clinical testing in a patient population comprised primarily of unipolar depressed patients, approximately 1% of paroxetine hydrochloride treated patients' experienced manic reactions. When bipolar patients were considered as a sub-group the incidence of mania was 2%. As with all drugs effective in the treatment of depression, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be used with caution in patients with a history of mania.

A major depressive episode may be the initial presentation of bipolar disorder. Patients with

bipolar disorder may be at an increased risk of experiencing manic episodes when treated with antidepressants alone. Therefore, the decision to initiate symptomatic treatment of depression should only be made after patients have been adequately assessed to determine if they are at risk for bipolar disorder.

Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT): The efficacy and safety of the concurrent use of paroxetine hydrochloride and ECT have not been studied.

Renal

Hyponatremia: Several cases of hyponatremia have been reported. The hyponatremia appeared to be reversible when paroxetine hydrochloride was discontinued. The majority of these occurrences have been in elderly individuals, some in patients taking diuretics or who were otherwise volume depleted.

Renal Impairment: Since paroxetine hydrochloride is extensively metabolized by the liver, excretion of unchanged drug in urine is a minor route of elimination. However, single dose pharmacokinetic studies in subjects with clinically significant renal impairment suggest that plasma levels of paroxetine hydrochloride are elevated in such subjects. NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should therefore be used with caution and the dosage restricted to the lower end of the range in patients with clinically significant renal impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - Renal/Hepatic Impairment, ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY - Special Populations and Conditions - Renal Insufficiency)

Special Populations

Pregnant Women and Newborns: Epidemiological studies of pregnancy outcomes following maternal exposure to antidepressants in the first trimester have reported an increase in the risk of congenital malformations, particularly cardiovascular (e.g. ventricular and atrial septal defects), associated with the use of paroxetine hydrochloride. The data suggest that the risk of having an infant with a cardiovascular defect following maternal paroxetine hydrochloride exposure is approximately 1/50 (2%), compared with an expected rate for such defects of approximately 1/100 (1%) infants in the general population. In general, septal defects range from those that are symptomatic and may require surgery, to those that are asymptomatic and may resolve spontaneously. Information about the severity of the septal defects reported in the studies is not available.

If a patient becomes pregnant while taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride), or intends to become pregnant, she should be informed of the current estimate of increased risk to the fetus with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) over other antidepressants. Examinations of additional databases, as well as updated analyses, may result in changes to the current risk estimates. Consideration should be given to switching to other treatment options, including another antidepressant or non-pharmaceutical treatment such as cognitive behavioural therapy. Treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should only be continued for an individual patient, if the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks.

Due to the potential for discontinuation symptoms, if a decision is taken to discontinue NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) treatment, a gradual reduction in the dose rather than an abrupt cessation is recommended (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Discontinuation of Treatment With NTP-PAROXETINE, ADVERSE REACTIONS - Adverse Events Following Discontinuation of Treatment (or Dose Reduction) and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Dosing Considerations - Discontinuation of Treatment)

Initiation of NTP-PAROXETINE: For women who intend to become pregnant, or are in their first trimester of pregnancy, initiation of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be considered only after other treatment options have been evaluated.

Post-marketing reports indicate that some neonates exposed to paroxetine hydrochloride, SSRIs (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors), or other newer anti-depressants late in the third trimester have developed complications requiring prolonged hospitalization, respiratory support, and tube feeding. Such complications can arise immediately upon delivery. Reported clinical findings have included respiratory distress, cyanosis, apnea, seizures, temperature instability, feeding difficulty, vomiting, hypoglycemia, hypotonia, hypertonia, hyperreflexia, tremor, jitteriness, irritability, and constant crying. These features are consistent with either a direct toxic effect of SSRIs and other newer anti-depressants, or, possibly, a drug discontinuation syndrome. It should be noted that, in some cases, the clinical picture is consistent with serotonin syndrome (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic -Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome). When treating a pregnant woman with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) during the third trimester, the physician should carefully consider the potential risks and benefits of treatment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Treatment of Pregnant Women*).

Nursing Women: The concentrations of paroxetine hydrochloride detected in the breast milk of lactating women are similar to those in the mother's plasma. Lactating women should not nurse their infants while receiving NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) unless in the option of the treating physician, breast feeding is necessary, in which case the infant should be closely monitored.

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is not indicated for use in patients below the age of 18 years (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - General - POTENTIAL ASSOCIATION WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING SELF HARM). See also INDICATIONS - Pediatrics, DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Pediatrics*.

Controlled clinical studies in depression failed to demonstrate efficacy and do not support the use of paroxetine hydrochloride in the treatment of children under the age of 18 years with depression. Moreover, a higher incidence of adverse events related to behavioural and emotional changes, including self harm, was reported with paroxetine hydrochloride treatment compared to placebo during controlled clinical trials in depression, OCD and social anxiety disorder (see ADVERSE REACTIONS - Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions - Pediatrics).

Geriatrics (≥ 65 years of age): Administration of paroxetine hydrochloride to the elderly is associated with increased plasma levels and prolongation of the elimination half life relative to younger adults (see ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY - Special Populations and Conditions - Geriatrics). Elderly patients should be initiated and maintained at the lowest daily dose of paroxetine hydrochloride which is associated with clinical efficacy (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Geriatrics*).

Evaluation of approximately 800 elderly patients (≥ 65 years) treated with paroxetine hydrochloride (10-40 mg daily) in worldwide premarketing clinical trials revealed no unusual pattern of adverse events relative to the clinical experience in younger patients. However, it is not possible to rule out potential age-related differences in safety and effectiveness during chronic use, particularly in elderly patients who have concomitant systemic illnesses or who are receiving concomitant drugs.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

Commonly Observed Adverse Events:

The most commonly observed adverse experiences associated with the use of paroxetine hydrochloride in clinical trials and not seen at an equivalent incidence among placebo-treated patients were: nausea, somnolence, sweating, tremor, asthenia, dizziness, dry mouth, insomnia, constipation, diarrhea, decreased appetite and male sexual dysfunction (See Tables 1 and 2).

Adverse Events Leading to Discontinuation of Treatment:

Twenty-one percent of over 4000 patients who received paroxetine hydrochloride in worldwide clinical trials in depression discontinued treatment due to an adverse experience. In obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, social phobia (social anxiety disorder), generalized anxiety disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder studies, 11.8% (64/542), 9.4 % (44/469), 16.1% (84/522), 10.7% (79/735) and 11.7% (79/676), respectively, of patients treated with paroxetine hydrochloride discontinued treatment because of adverse events. The most common events leading to discontinuation (reported by 1% or more of subjects) included: asthenia, headache, nausea, somnolence, insomnia, agitation, tremor, dizziness, constipation, impotence, abnormal ejaculation, sweating and diarrhea.

Adverse Events following Discontinuation of Treatment (or Dose Reduction):

Clinical Trials

The following adverse events have been reported at an incidence of 2% or greater for paroxetine hydrochloride and were at least twice that reported for placebo: abnormal dreams (2.3% vs 0.5%), paresthesias (2.0% vs 0.4%), and dizziness (7.1% vs 1.5%).

The majority of these events were mild to moderate, self-limiting and did not require medical intervention. These adverse events were noted in GAD and PTSD clinical trials employing a taper phase regimen for discontinuation of treatment. This regimen involved an incremental decrease in the daily dose by 10 mg/day at weekly intervals. When a daily dose of 20 mg/day was reached, patients were continued on this dose for 1 week before treatment was stopped.

Post-Marketing

There have been spontaneous reports of adverse events upon the discontinuation of paroxetine hydrochloride (particularly when abrupt), including but not limited to the following: dizziness, sensory disturbances (including paresthesias, electric shock sensations and tinnitus), agitation/restlessness, anxiety, nausea, tremor, confusion, diarrhea, vomiting, sweating, headache, and sleep disturbances (abnormal dreams). Generally these symptoms are mild to moderate, however, in some patients they may be severe in intensity. They usually occur within the first few days of discontinuing treatment, but there have been very rare reports of such symptoms in patients who have inadvertently missed a dose. Generally these symptoms are self-limiting and usually resolve within 2 weeks, though in some individuals they may be prolonged (2-3 months or more). Symptoms associated with discontinuation have been reported for other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors.

Patients should be monitored for these or any other symptoms when discontinuing treatment, regardless of the indication for which NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is being prescribed. If intolerable symptoms occur following a decrease in the dose or upon discontinuation of treatment, dose titration should be managed on the basis of the patient's clinical response (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and/or approximating rates.

Incidence in Controlled Clinical Trials

Adults

Multiple doses of paroxetine hydrochloride were administered to 4126 subjects in clinical trials for depression, 542 subjects in clinical trials for OCD, 469 subjects in clinical trials for panic disorder, 522 subjects in clinical trials for social phobia (social anxiety disorder), 735 subjects in clinical trials for generalized anxiety disorder and 676 subjects in clinical trials for posttraumatic stress disorder. Untoward experiences associated with this exposure were recorded by clinical investigators using descriptive terminology of their own choosing.

Consequently, it is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the proportion of individuals experiencing adverse experiences without first grouping similar types of untoward experiences into a limited (i.e., reduced) number of standardized experience categories.

Table 1 lists adverse experiences that occurred at an incidence of 1% or higher in short term (6-week) flexible dose (20 - 50 mg/day) placebo-controlled trials in depression. (An additional 460 patients participated in a fixed-dose placebo-controlled study).

Table 2 enumerates adverse events that occurred at a frequency of 2% or more among patients on paroxetine hydrochloride who participated in placebo-controlled OCD trials of 12-weeks duration in which patients were dosed in the range of 20 - 60 mg/day, in placebo-controlled panic disorder trials of 10-12-weeks duration in which patients were dosed in the range of 10 - 60 mg/day, in placebo-controlled social phobia (social anxiety disorder) trials of 12 weeks duration in which patients were dosed in a range of 20 to 50 mg/day in placebo-controlled generalized anxiety disorder trials of 8 weeks in which patients were dosed in a range from 10-50 mg/day and in placebo-controlled posttraumatic stress disorder trials of 12 weeks in which patients were dosed in a range from 20-50 mg/day.

The prescriber should be aware that these figures cannot be used to predict the incidence of side effects in the course of usual medical practice where patient characteristics and other factors differ from those which prevailed in the clinical trials. Similarly the cited incidences cannot be compared with figures obtained from other clinical investigations involving different treatments, uses and investigators. The cited frequencies do however provide the prescribing physician with some basis for estimating the relative contribution of drug and non-drug factors to the side effect incidence rate in the population studied. Reported adverse experiences were classified using a COSTART-based Dictionary terminology for the depression trials and an ADECS (a modified COSTART dictionary) for OCD and panic disorder trials.

TABLE I
Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events in Short Term flexible Dose Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trials in Depression¹

Body System	Preferred Term	Paroxetine (n=421)	Placebo (n=421)
Body as a Whole	Headache	17.6%	17.3%
	Asthenia	15.0%	5.9%
	Abdominal Pain	3.1%	4.0%
	Fever	1.7%	1.7%
	Chest Pain	1.4%	2.1%
	Trauma	1.4%	0.5%
	Back Pain	1.2%	2.4%
Cardiovascular	Palpitation	2.9%	1.4%
	Vasodilation	2.6%	0.7%
	Postural Hypotension	1.2%	0.5%
Dermatological	Sweating	11.2%	2.4%
	Rash	1.7%	0.7%
Gastrointestinal	Nausea	25.7%	9.3%
	Dry Mouth	18.1%	12.1%
	Constipation	13.8%	8.6%
	Diarrhea	11.6%	7.6%
	Decreased Appetite	6.4%	1.9%
	Flatulence	4.0%	1.7%
	Vomiting	2.4%	1.7%
	Oropharynx Disorder ²	2.1%	0.0%
	Dyspepsia	1.9%	1.0%
Increased Appetite	1.4%	0.5%	
Musculoskeletal	Myopathy	2.4%	1.4%
	Myalgia	1.7%	0.7%
	Myasthenia	1.4%	0.2%
Nervous System	Somnolence	23.3%	9.0%
	Dizziness	13.3%	5.5%
	Insomnia	13.3%	6.2%
	Tremor	8.3%	1.9%
	Nervousness	5.2%	2.6%
	Anxiety	5.0%	2.9%
	Paresthesia	3.8%	1.7%
	Libido Decreased	3.3%	0.0%
	Agitation	2.1%	1.9%
	Drugged Feeling	1.7%	0.7%
	Myoclonus	1.4%	0.7%
	CNS Stimulation	1.2%	3.6%
	Confusion	1.2%	0.2%
Respiration	Respiratory Disorder ³	5.9%	6.4%
	Yawn	3.8%	0.0%
	Pharyngitis	2.1%	2.9%
Special Senses	Blurred Vision	3.6%	1.4%
	Taste Perversion	2.4%	0.2%
Urogenital System	*Abnormal Ejaculation ⁺	12.9%	0.0%
	*Male Genital Disorders ⁴	8.0%	0.0%
	Urinary Frequency	3.1%	0.7%
	Urination Impaired ⁵	2.9%	0.2%

Body System	Preferred Term	Paroxetine (n=421)	Placebo (n=421)
	*Impotence	2.5%	0.5%
	*Female Genital Disorders ⁶	1.8%	0.0%

- 1 Events reported by at least 1% of patients treated with paroxetine hydrochloride are included.
- * Percentage corrected for gender. Placebo: male, n=206 female, n=215 paroxetine hydrochloride: male, n=201 female, n=220
- + Primarily ejaculatory delay. In a trial of fixed doses of paroxetine hydrochloride, the incidence of ejaculatory disturbance in males with 20 mg per day of paroxetine hydrochloride was 6.5% (3/46) versus 0% (0/23) in the placebo group.
- 2 Includes mostly lump in throat and tightness in throat
- 3 Includes mostly cold symptoms or URI
- 4 Includes anorgasmia, erectile difficulties, delayed ejaculation/orgasm, sexual dysfunction and impotence
- 5 Includes difficulty with micturition and urinary hesitancy
- 6 Includes anorgasmia and difficulty reaching climax/orgasm

Table 2
Treatment-Emergent Adverse Experience Incidence in Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trials for Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder), Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder¹.

Body System	Preferred Term	Obsessive – Compulsive Disorder		Panic Disorder		Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder)		Generalized Anxiety Disorder		Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	
		Paroxetine (n=542)	Placebo (n=265)	Paroxetine (n=469)	Placebo (n=324)	Paroxetine (n=425)	Placebo (n=339)	Paroxetine (n=735)	Placebo (n=529)	Paroxetine (n=676)	Placebo (n=504)
Body as a Whole	Headache	25.3%	29.1%	25.4%	25.3%	22.4%	21.8%	16.9%	14.0%	18.9%	19.2%
	Asthenia	21.8%	13.6%	13.6%	4.6%	22.4%	13.6%	14.3%	6.4%	11.8%	4.2%
	Infection	5.4%	4.9%	5.3%	6.8%	3.8%	5.9%	5.6%	3.4%	4.9%	3.8%
	Abdominal Pain	4.8%	4.9%	4.3%	3.1%	2.1%	4.7%	4.5%	3.6%	4.3%	3.2%
	Chest Pain										
	Back Pain	2.8%	1.9%	2.3%	3.1%	0.7%	0.3%	1.0%	0.6%	1.2%	0.8%
	Chills	2.4%	4.9%	3.2%	2.2%	1.6%	4.1%	2.3%	3.6%	3.4%	3.4%
	Trauma	2.0%	0.8%	2.3%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	1.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%
Cardiovascular	Vasodilation	3.9%	1.1%	2.1%	2.8%	1.4%	0.6%	2.7%	0.8%	2.2%	1.2%
	Palpitation	2.0%	0.4%	2.3%	2.5%	1.2%	1.8%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	0.8%
Dermatologic	Sweating	8.9%	3.0%	14.3%	4.9%	9.2%	2.1%	6.3%	1.5%	4.6%	1.4%
	Rash	3.1%	1.9%	2.3%	1.5%	0.7%	0.3%	1.5%	0.9%	1.5%	2.0%
Gastrointestinal	Nausea	23.2%	9.8%	22.8%	17.3%	24.7%	6.5%	20.1%	5.3%	19.2%	8.3%
	Dry Mouth	18.1%	8.7%	18.1%	10.8%	8.9%	2.29%	10.9%	4.7%	10.1%	4.8%
	Constipation	15.7%	6.4%	7.9%	5.2%	5.4%	1.8%	10.5%	1.7%	5.5%	3.4%
	Diarrhea	10.3%	9.8%	11.7%	6.5%	8.5%	5.9%	9.1%	6.6%	10.5%	5.4%
	Decreased Appetite	9.0%	3.4%	7.0%	2.8%	7.8%	1.5%	5.2%	1.1%	5.9%	2.6%
	Dyspepsia	3.9%	6.8%	3.8%	6.8%	4.0%	2.4%	4.5%	4.9%	4.6%	3.4%
	Flatulence	3.0%	4.2%	1.7%	2.8%	4.0%	2.4%	1.4%	2.1%	1.0%	1.0%
	Increased Appetite	4.2%	3.0%	2.1%	0.6%	1.2%	1.8%	0.4%	1.1%	1.5%	1.0%
	Vomiting										
			2.2%	3.4%	1.9%	1.5%	2.4%	0.6%	2.7%	2.5%	3.0%
Musculoskeletal Nervous System	Myalgia	3.1%	3.8%	2.3%	3.4%	4.0%	2.7%	2.9%	2.6%	1.8%	1.8%
	Somnolence	24.4%	7.2%	18.8%	10.8%	21.6%	5.3%	15.4%	4.5%	16.0%	4.6%
	Insomnia	23.8%	13.2%	17.9%	10.2%	20.9%	15.9%	10.7%	7.9%	11.8%	11.3%
	Dizziness	12.4%	6.0%	14.1%	9.9%	11.3%	7.1%	6.1%	4.5%	6.1%	4.6%
	Tremor	10.5%	1.1%	8.5%	1.2%	8.7%	1.2%	4.6%	0.8%	4.3%	1.4%
	Nervousness	8.5%	8.3%	7.9%	8.3%	7.5%	6.5%	3.9%	2.8%	3.0%	4.4%
	Libido Decreased	7.2%	3.8%	8.5%	1.2%	11.5%	0.9%	9.4%	1.5%	5.2%	1.8%
	Anxiety										
	Abnormal Dreams	4.1%	6.8%	4.5%	4.0%	4.7%	4.1%	1.6%	0.9%	3.8%	4.0%
	Mycoclonus	3.9%	1.1%	2.8%	3.4%	1.9%	1.5%	0.5%	1.1%	2.5%	1.6%
	Concentration										
	Impaired	3.3%	0.4%	3.2%	1.5%	2.1%	0.9%	1.6%	0.6%	1.0%	0.6%
	Depersonalization	2.8%	1.5%	1.1%	0.9%	3.5%	0.6%	1.1%	0.6%	1.5%	1.0%
	Amnesia	2.6%	0.4%	1.7%	2.2%	0.7%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	0.9%	0.2%
	Hyperkinesia										
Agitation	2.2%	1.1%	0.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.6%	1.3%	1.0%	
Respiratory System	Pharyngitis	3.7%	4.9%	3.2%	3.1%	3.8%	2.1%	2.3%	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%
	Rhinitis	1.5%	3.4%	2.6%	0.3%	1.2%	3.2%	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%	2.0%
	Sinusitis	1.5%	4.9%	5.8%	4.6%	2.1%	2.4%	3.5%	3.4%	3.8%	4.4%
	Yawn	1.7%	0.4%	1.9%	0.0%	4.9%	0.3%	4.2%	0.2%	2.1%	0.2%

Body System	Preferred Term	Obsessive – Compulsive Disorder		Panic Disorder		Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder)		Generalized Anxiety Disorder		Posttraumatic Stress Disorder	
		Paroxetine (n=542)	Placebo (n=265)	Paroxetine (n=469)	Placebo (n=324)	Paroxetine (n=425)	Placebo (n=339)	Paroxetine (n=735)	Placebo (n=529)	Paroxetine (n=676)	Placebo (n=504)
	Cough Increased Respiratory Disorder ¹	1.1%	1.9%	2.3%	1.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	1.2%	0.6%
		-	-	-	-	-	-	6.8%	5.1%	3.3%	1.0%
Special Senses	Abnormal Vision Taste Perversion	3.7%	2.3%	3.0%	2.8%	4.0%	0.3%	2.2%	0.6%	0.3%	0.0%
		2.0%	0.0%	1.1%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%
Urogenital System	Abnormal Ejaculation ²	23.3%	1.3%	20.5%	0.9%	27.6%	1.1%	24.7%	2.0%	12.6%	1.6%
	Dysmenorrhea ²	1.4%	1.9%	2.0%	2.3%	4.6%	4.4%	1.3%	1.2%	1.6%	1.3%
	Impotence ²	8.2%	1.3%	5.4%	0.0%	5.3%	1.1%	4.2%	3.0%	9.2%	0.5%
	Female Genital Disorder ^{2,3}	3.3%	0.0%	8.9%	0.5%	8.6%	0.6%	4.4%	0.6%	4.8%	0.6%
	Urinary Frequency	3.3%	1.1%	2.1%	0.3%	1.6%	1.8%	1.0%	0.6%	1.0%	0.2%
	Urination Impaired	3.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	1.9%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%
	Urinary Tract Infection	1.5%	1.1%	2.1%	1.2%	0.2%	1.2%	1.2%	1.1%	0.6%	0.8%

1 Events reported by at least 2% of either OCD, Panic Disorder, Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder), Generalized Anxiety Disorder or Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. Paroxetine Hydrochloride-treated patients are included, except the following events which had an incidence on placebo \geq Paroxetine [OCD]: depression, paraesthesia, and respiratory disorder [Panic Disorder]: flu syndrome, depression, paraesthesia, respiratory disorder. [Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder)]: depression, respiratory disorder. [Generalized Anxiety Disorder]: not applicable, [Posttraumatic Stress Disorder]: depression, respiratory disorder.

2 Incidence is gender-corrected: OCD:

Placebo: male, n=158; female, n=107
Paroxetine Hydrochloride: male, n=330; female, n=212

PANIC:

Placebo: male, n=111; female, n=213
Paroxetine Hydrochloride: male, n=166; female, n=303

SOCIAL PHOBIA:
(SOCIAL ANXIETY DISORDER)

Placebo: male, n=180; female, n=159
Paroxetine Hydrochloride: male, n=228 female, n=197

GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER:

Placebo: male, n=197, female, n=332
Paroxetine Hydrochloride: male, n=283; female, n=452

POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

Placebo: male, n=190; female, n=314
Paroxetine Hydrochloride: male, n=238 female, n=438

3 Includes anorgasmia and difficulty reaching climax/orgasm

Male and Female Sexual Dysfunction With SSRIs:

Although changes in sexual desire, sexual performance and sexual satisfaction often occur as manifestations of a psychiatric disorder, they may also be a consequence of pharmacologic treatment. In particular, some evidence suggests that selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) can cause such untoward sexual experiences.

Reliable estimates of the incidence and severity of untoward experiences involving sexual desire, performance and satisfaction are difficult to obtain, however, in part because patients and physicians may be reluctant to discuss them. Accordingly, estimates of the incidence of untoward sexual experience and performance cited in product labeling are likely to underestimate their actual incidence.

In placebo-controlled clinical trials involving more than 3,200 patients, the ranges for the reported incidence of sexual side effects in males and females with major depressive disorder, OCD, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, GAD and PTSD are displayed in Table 3 below.

Table 3
Incidence of Sexual Adverse Events in Controlled Clinical Trials

	Paroxetine Hydrochloride	Placebo
n (males)	1446	1042
Decreased Libido	6-15%	0-5%
Ejaculatory Disturbance	13-28%	0-2%
Impotence	2-9%	0-3%
n (females)	1822	1340
Decreased Libido	0-9%	0-2%
Orgasmic Disturbance	2-9%	0-1%

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies examining sexual dysfunction with paroxetine hydrochloride treatment.

Paroxetine hydrochloride treatment has been associated with several cases of priapism. In those cases with a known outcome, patients recovered without sequelae.

While it is difficult to know the precise risk of sexual dysfunction associated with the use of SSRIs, physicians should routinely inquire about such possible side effects.

Pediatrics

In placebo-controlled clinical trials conducted with pediatric patients aged 7 to 18 years with depression, OCD and Social Anxiety Disorder (involving 633 patients treated with paroxetine hydrochloride and 542 patients treated with placebo), the following adverse events were reported in at least 2% of pediatric patients treated with paroxetine hydrochloride and occurred at a rate at least twice that for pediatric patients receiving placebo: emotional lability (including self-harm, suicidal thoughts, attempted suicide, crying, and mood fluctuations), hostility, (predominantly aggression, oppositional behaviour and anger) decreased appetite, tremor, sweating, hyperkinesia, and agitation.

In the pediatric clinical trials in depression, OCD and Social Anxiety Disorder that included a taper phase regimen (307 patients aged 7 to 18 years treated with paroxetine hydrochloride and 291 patients treated with placebo), events reported upon discontinuation of treatment, which occurred in at least 2% of patients who received paroxetine hydrochloride and which occurred at a rate at least twice that of placebo, were: emotional lability (including suicidal ideation, suicide attempt, mood changes, and tearfulness), nervousness, dizziness, nausea, and abdominal pain (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Discontinuation of Treatment With NTP-PAROXETINE).

Other Events Observed During the Clinical Development of Paroxetine

In the tabulations which follow, a COSTART or modified COSTART-based Dictionary terminology has been used to classify reported adverse experiences. The frequencies presented therefore represent the portion of the 4126, 542, 469, 522, 735 and 676 paroxetine hydrochloride-exposed individuals in depression, OCD, panic, social phobia (social anxiety disorder), generalized anxiety disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder trials, respectively, who

experienced an event of the type cited on at least one occasion while receiving paroxetine hydrochloride. Experiences are further classified within body system categories and enumerated in order of decreasing frequency using the following definitions: frequent experiences are defined as those occurring on one or more occasion in at least 1/100 patients; infrequent adverse experiences are those occurring in less than 1/100 but at least 1/1000 patients; rare experiences are those occurring in less than 1/1000 patients.

All adverse experiences are included except those already listed in Table 1 and Table 2, those reported in terms so general as to be uninformative and those experiences for which the drug cause was remote. It is important to emphasize that although the experiences reported did occur during treatment with paroxetine hydrochloride, they were not necessarily caused by it.

Body as a Whole

Frequent: Malaise, pain. **Infrequent:** Allergic reaction, chills, face edema, infection, moniliasis, neck pain, overdose. **Rare:** Abnormal laboratory value, abscess, adrenergic syndrome, cellulitis, chills and fever, cyst, hernia, intentional overdose, neck rigidity, pelvic pain, peritonitis, substernal chest pain, sepsis, ulcer.

Cardiovascular System

Frequent: Hypertension, syncope, tachycardia. **Infrequent:** Bradycardia, conduction abnormalities, electrocardiogram abnormal, hypotension, migraine, ventricular extrasystoles. **Rare:** Angina pectoris, arrhythmia, atrial arrhythmia, atrial fibrillation, bundle branch block, cardiac disorder, cerebral ischemia, cerebrovascular accident, cerebrovascular disorder, congestive heart failure, extrasystoles, low cardiac output, myocardial infarct, myocardial ischemia, pallor, phlebitis, pulmonary embolus, supraventricular extrasystoles, thrombosis, varicose vein, vascular disorder, vascular headache.

Dermatological

Frequent: Pruritus. **Infrequent:** Acne, alopecia, dry skin, ecchymosis, eczema, furunculosis, herpes simplex, urticaria. **Rare:** Angioedema, contact dermatitis, erythema nodosum, exfoliative dermatitis, herpes zoster, maculopapular rash, photosensitivity, skin discolouration, skin ulcer, skin hypertrophy, sweating decreased.

Endocrine

Rare: Diabetes mellitus, fertility decreased female, goiter, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, thyroiditis.

Gastrointestinal

Frequent: Nausea and vomiting. **Infrequent:** Bruxism, buccal cavity disorders, dysphagia, eructation, gastroenteritis, gastrointestinal flu, glossitis, increased salivation, liver function tests

abnormal, mouth ulceration, vomiting and diarrhea, rectal hemorrhage. **Rare:** Aphthous stomatitis, bloody diarrhea, bulimia, cardiospasm, colitis, duodenitis, esophagitis, fecal impaction, fecal incontinence, gastritis, gingivitis, hematemesis, hepatitis, ileitis, ileus, jaundice, melena, peptic ulcer, salivary gland enlargement, sialadenitis, stomach ulcer, stomatitis, tongue edema, tooth caries.

Hematologic and Lymphatic

Infrequent: Anemia, leukopenia, lymphadenopathy, purpura, WBC abnormality. **Rare:** Abnormal bleeding, predominately of the skin and mucous membranes (mostly ecchymosis), bleeding time increased, eosinophilia, iron deficiency anemia, leukocytosis, lymphedema, lymphocytosis, microcytic anemia, monocytosis, normocytic anemia, thrombocytopenia.

Metabolic and Nutritional

Frequent: Weight gain, weight loss. **Infrequent:** Edema, hyperglycemia, peripheral edema, thirst. **Rare:** Alkaline phosphatase increased, bilirubinemia, cachexia, dehydration, gout, hypercholesteremia, hypocalcemia, hypoglycemia, hypokalemia, hyponatremia (predominantly in the elderly) which is sometimes due to syndrome of inappropriate anti-diuretic hormone secretion (SIADH), non-protein nitrogen (NPN) increased, obesity, SGOT increased, SGPT increased.

Musculoskeletal

Infrequent: Arthralgia, arthritis, traumatic fracture. **Rare:** Arthrosis, bone disorder, bursitis, cartilage disorder, myositis, osteoporosis, tetany.

Nervous System

Frequent: CNS stimulation, concentration impaired, depression, emotional lability, vertigo. **Infrequent:** Akinesia, alcohol abuse, amnesia, ataxia, convulsion, depersonalization, hallucinations, hyperkinesia, hypertonia, incoordination, lack of emotion, manic reaction, paranoid reaction, thinking abnormal, hypesthesia. **Rare:** Abnormal electroencephalogram, abnormal gait, antisocial reaction, brain edema, choreoathetosis, circumoral paraesthesia, confusion, delirium, delusions, diplopia, drug dependence, dysarthria, dyskinesia, dystonia, euphoria, fasciculations, grand mal convulsion, hostility, hyperalgesia, hypokinesia, hysteria, libido increased, manic depressive reaction, meningitis, myelitis, neuralgia, neuropathy, nystagmus, psychosis, psychotic depression, reflexes increased, stupor, torticollis, withdrawal syndrome.

Respiratory System

Frequent: Cough increased, rhinitis. **Infrequent:** Asthma, bronchitis, dyspnea, epistaxis, hyperventilation, pneumonia, respiratory flu, sinusitis. **Rare:** Hiccup, lung fibrosis, sputum increased, stridor, trachea disorder, voice alteration.

Special Senses

Infrequent: Abnormality of accommodation, conjunctivitis, ear pain, eye pain, mydriasis, otitis media, tinnitus. **Rare:** Amblyopia, cataract specified, conjunctival edema, corneal lesion, corneal ulcer, exophthalmos, eye hemorrhage, acute glaucoma, hyperacusis, otitis externals, photophobia, retinal hemorrhage, taste loss, anisocoria, deafness, keratoconjunctivitis.

Urogenital system

Infrequent: Abortion*, amenorrhea*, breast pain*, cystitis, dysmenorrhea*, dysuria, menorrhagia*, nocturia, polyuria, urinary incontinence, urinary retention, urinary tract infection, urinary urgency, vaginitis*. **Rare:** Breast atrophy*, cervix disorder*, endometrial disorder*, female lactation*, hematuria, kidney calculus, kidney function abnormal, kidney pain, mastitis*, nephritis, oliguria, salpingitis*, spermatogenesis arrest* urethritis, urinary casts, urine abnormality, uterine neoplasm*, vaginal moniliasis*.

* Incidence corrected for gender

Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

Adverse events not listed above which have been reported since market introduction in patients taking paroxetine hydrochloride include acute pancreatitis, hepatic events such as elevation of hepatic enzymes, and hepatitis, sometimes associated with jaundice, and/or liver failure (in very rare circumstances, with fatal outcomes), Guillain-Barré syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, priapism, thrombocytopenia, aggravated hypertension, syndrome of inappropriate ADH secretion, symptoms suggestive of hyperprolactinemia and galactorrhea, blurred vision; extrapyramidal symptoms which have included akathisia, (characterized by an inner sense of restlessness and psychomotor agitation such as an inability to sit or stand still usually associated with subjective distress), bradykinesia, cogwheel rigidity, dystonia, hypertonia, oculogyric crisis which has been associated with concomitant use of pimozide, tremor and trismus, neuroleptic malignant syndrome-like events and serotonin syndrome (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome). There has been a case report of an elevated phenytoin level after 4 weeks of paroxetine hydrochloride and phenytoin co-administration. There has been a case report of severe hypotension when paroxetine hydrochloride was added to chronic metoprolol treatment. The causal relationship between paroxetine hydrochloride and the emergence of these events has not been established.

There have been spontaneous reports of adverse events upon the discontinuation of paroxetine hydrochloride and other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (particularly when abrupt) (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - General - Discontinuation of Treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE and ADVERSE REACTIONS - Adverse Events Following Discontinuation of Treatment).

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Serious Drug Interactions

- **Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors: See CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- **Thioridazine: See CONTRAINDICATIONS**
- **Pimozide: See CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Overview

Like some other selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors, paroxetine hydrochloride inhibits the specific hepatic cytochrome P450 isozyme CYP2D6 which is responsible for the metabolism of debrisoquine and sparteine. Poor metabolizers of debrisoquine/sparteine represent approximately 5-10% of Caucasians. The median $C_{\min}(\text{ss})$ for paroxetine hydrochloride (20 mg daily) at steady state in poor metabolizers (n=8) was almost triple that reported for extensive metabolizers (n=9). Although the full clinical significance of this effect has not been established, inhibition of CYP2D6 can lead to elevated plasma levels of co-administered drugs which are metabolized by this isozyme. Consideration should be given to decreasing the dose of the CYP2D6 metabolized drug or paroxetine hydrochloride and/or monitoring of drug plasma levels, especially when paroxetine hydrochloride is co-administered with drugs with a narrow therapeutic index.

Paroxetine hydrochloride co-administration has been associated with elevated levels of the anti cholinergic procyclidine, certain neuroleptics/antipsychotics (e.g., perphenazine, risperidone), tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., desipramine), atomoxetine, type 1C antiarrhythmics (e.g., propafenone), and theophylline.

Co-administration of phenobarbital or phenytoin with paroxetine hydrochloride has been associated with decreased levels of paroxetine hydrochloride. When co-administered with cimetidine, paroxetine hydrochloride levels were elevated.

The concomitant use of paroxetine hydrochloride and alcohol has not been studied.

Drug-Drug Interactions

Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors: Combined use of paroxetine hydrochloride and monoamine oxidase inhibitors is contraindicated due to the potential for serious reactions with features resembling serotonin syndrome or neuroleptic malignant syndrome (see CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome).

Thioridazine: Combined use of paroxetine hydrochloride and thioridazine is contraindicated due to a potential for elevated thioridazine plasma levels. Thioridazine treatment alone produces prolongation of the QTc interval, which is associated with serious ventricular arrhythmias, such as torsade de pointes-type arrhythmias, and sudden death (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Pimozide: In an open label study of healthy volunteers, co-administration of a single dose of 2 mg pimozide, under steady state conditions of paroxetine hydrochloride (titrated to 60 mg daily) was associated with mean increases in pimozide AUC of 151% and C_{\max} of 62%, compared to pimozide administered alone. Due to the narrow therapeutic index of pimozide, and its known

ability to prolong the QT interval, and produce severe cardiac arrhythmias including Torsade de Pointes, concomitant use of pimozide and paroxetine hydrochloride is contraindicated (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Drugs Metabolized by Cytochrome P450 (CYP2D6): In two studies, daily dosing of paroxetine hydrochloride (20 mg qd) under steady state conditions increased the following mean pharmacokinetic parameters for a single (100 mg) dose of desipramine in extensive metabolizers: C_{max} (2 fold), AUC (6 fold), and $T_{1/2}$ (3-5 fold). Concomitant steady-state paroxetine hydrochloride treatment did not result in any further impairment of desipramine elimination in poor metabolizers. Insufficient information is available to provide recommendations on the necessary dosage adjustments for tricyclic antidepressants or paroxetine hydrochloride, if these drugs are to be used in combination. Plasma tricyclic antidepressant concentrations may need to be monitored in such instances.

Concomitant use of paroxetine hydrochloride with other drugs metabolized by CYP2D6 has not been formally studied but may require lower doses than usually prescribed for either paroxetine hydrochloride or the other drug. Drugs metabolized by CYP2D6 include certain tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. nortriptyline, amitriptyline, imipramine and desipramine), selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (e.g. fluoxetine), phenothiazine neuroleptics (e.g. perphenazine), risperidone, atomoxetine, Type IC antiarrhythmics (e.g. propafenone and flecainide), and metoprolol. Due to the risk of serious ventricular arrhythmias and sudden death potentially associated with elevated plasma levels of thioridazine, paroxetine hydrochloride and thioridazine should not be co-administered (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Fosamprenavir/ritonavir: Co-administration of fosamprenavir/ritonavir with paroxetine hydrochloride significantly decreased plasma levels of paroxetine hydrochloride (by ~ 60 % in one study). Any dose adjustment should be guided by clinical effect (tolerability and efficacy).

Drugs Metabolized by Cytochrome P450 (CYP3A4): An in vivo interaction study involving the co-administration under steady state conditions of paroxetine hydrochloride and terfenadine, a substrate for CYP3A4, revealed no effect of paroxetine hydrochloride on terfenadine pharmacokinetics. In addition, in vitro studies have shown ketoconazole, a potent inhibitor of CYP3A4 activity, to be at least 100 times more potent than paroxetine hydrochloride as an inhibitor of the metabolism of several substrates for this enzyme, including terfenadine, astemizole, cisapride, triazolam and cyclosporin. Based on the assumption that the relationship between paroxetine hydrochloride's in vitro K_i and its lack of effect on terfenadine's in vivo clearance predicts its effect on other CYP3A4 substrates, paroxetine hydrochloride's extent of inhibition of CYP3A4 activity would not be expected to be of clinical significance.

Microsomal Enzyme Inhibition/Induction: The metabolism and pharmacokinetics of paroxetine hydrochloride may be affected by the induction or inhibition of drug metabolizing enzymes.

Drugs Highly Bound to Plasma Protein: Paroxetine is highly bound to plasma protein, therefore administration of paroxetine hydrochloride to a patient taking another drug that is

highly protein bound may cause increased free concentrations of the other drug, potentially resulting in adverse events. Conversely, adverse effects could result from displacement of paroxetine hydrochloride by other highly bound drugs.

Alcohol: The concomitant use of paroxetine hydrochloride and alcohol has not been studied and is not recommended. Patients should be advised to avoid alcohol while taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride).

Anti-cholinergic Drugs: Paroxetine hydrochloride has been reported to increase significantly the systemic bioavailability of *procyclidine*. Steady state plasma levels of *procyclidine* (5 mg daily) were elevated by about 40% when 30 mg paroxetine hydrochloride was co-administered to steady-state. If anti-cholinergic effects are seen, the dose of *procyclidine* should be reduced.

Antiretroviral: Co-administration of fosamprenavir/ritonavir with paroxetine hydrochloride significantly decreased plasma levels of paroxetine hydrochloride (by ~ 60 % in one study). Any dose adjustment should be guided by clinical effect (tolerability and efficacy).

Phenobarbital: Chronic daily dosing with *phenobarbital* (100 mg qid for 14 days) decreased the systemic availability of a single 30 mg dose of paroxetine hydrochloride in some subjects. The AUC and $T^{1/2}$ of paroxetine hydrochloride were reduced by an average of 25% and 38% respectively compared to paroxetine hydrochloride administered alone. The effect of paroxetine hydrochloride on *phenobarbital* pharmacokinetics was not studied. No initial NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) dosage adjustment is considered necessary when co-administered with *phenobarbital*; any subsequent adjustment should be guided by clinical effect.

Anticonvulsants: In a limited number of patients with epilepsy on long-term treatment with anticonvulsants (carbamazepine 600-900 mg/day, n=6; phenytoin 250-400 mg/day, n=6; sodium valproate 300-2500 mg/day, n=8) the co-administration of paroxetine hydrochloride (30 mg/day for 10 days) had no significant effect on the plasma concentrations of these anticonvulsants. In healthy volunteers, co-administration of paroxetine hydrochloride with phenytoin has been associated with decreased plasma levels of paroxetine hydrochloride and an increased incidence of adverse experiences. However, no initial dosage adjustment of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is considered necessary when the drug is to be co-administered with known drug metabolizing enzyme inducers (*e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin, sodium valproate*) and any subsequent dosage adjustment should be guided by clinical effect. Co-administration of paroxetine hydrochloride with anticonvulsants may be associated with an increased incidence of adverse experiences.

Antipsychotic Drugs/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome: As with other SSRIs, paroxetine hydrochloride should be used with caution in patients already receiving antipsychotics/neuroleptics, since symptoms suggestive of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome cases have been reported with this combination (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome).

Serotonergic Drugs: Based on the mechanism of action of paroxetine hydrochloride and the potential for serotonin syndrome, caution is advised when paroxetine hydrochloride is coadministered with other drugs or agents that may affect the serotonergic neurotransmitter

systems, such as tryptophan, triptans, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, linezolid (an antibiotic which is a reversible non-selective MAOI), lithium, tramadol, or St. John's Wort (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome).

Lithium: In a study of depressed patients stabilized on lithium, no pharmacokinetic interaction between paroxetine hydrochloride and *lithium* was observed. However, due to the potential for serotonin syndrome, caution is advised when NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is coadministered with lithium.

Triptans: There have been rare postmarketing reports describing patients with weakness, hyperreflexia, and incoordination following the use of a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) and the 5HT₁ agonist, sumatriptan. If concomitant treatment with triptan and an SSRI (e.g., fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine hydrochloride, sertraline) is clinically warranted, appropriate observation of the patient is advised. The possibility of such interactions should also be considered if other 5HT₁ agonists are to be used in combination with SSRIs (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome).

Tryptophan: *Tryptophan* can be metabolized to serotonin. As with other serotonin reuptake inhibitors, the use of paroxetine hydrochloride together with *tryptophan* may result in adverse reactions consisting primarily of headache, nausea, sweating and dizziness as well as serotonin syndrome. Consequently, concomitant use of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) with tryptophan is not recommended (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Neurologic - Serotonin Syndrome/Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome).

CNS Drugs: Experience in a limited number of healthy subjects has shown that paroxetine hydrochloride does not increase the sedation and drowsiness associated with *haloperidol*, *amylbarbitone* or *oxazepam*, when given in combination. Since the effects of concomitant administration of paroxetine hydrochloride with neuroleptics have not been studied, the use of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) with these drugs should be approached with caution.

Diazepam: A multiple dose study of the interaction between paroxetine hydrochloride and *diazepam* showed no alteration in the pharmacokinetics of paroxetine hydrochloride that would warrant changes in the dose of paroxetine hydrochloride for patients receiving both drugs. The effects of paroxetine hydrochloride on the pharmacokinetics of *diazepam* were not evaluated.

Cardiovascular Drugs: Multiple dose treatment with paroxetine hydrochloride 30 mg/day has little or no effect on the steady-state pharmacokinetics of *digoxin* (0.25 mg qd) or propanolol (80 mg bid).

Theophylline: Reports of elevated theophylline levels associated with paroxetine hydrochloride treatment have been reported. While this interaction has not been formally studied, it is recommended that theophylline levels be monitored when these drugs are concurrently administered.

Cimetidine: Steady state levels of paroxetine hydrochloride (30 mg daily) were elevated by about 50% when cimetidine (300 mg tid), a known drug metabolizing enzyme inhibitor, was co-administered to steady-state. Consideration should be given to using doses of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) towards the lower end of the range when co-administered with known drug metabolizing enzyme inhibitors.

Drug-Food Interactions

The absorption and pharmacokinetics of paroxetine hydrochloride are not affected by food or antacids.

Drug-Herb Interactions

St. John's Wort: In common with other SSRI's, pharmacodynamic interactions between NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) and the herbal remedy St. John's Wort may occur and may result in an increase in undesirable effects.

Drug-Laboratory Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dosing Considerations

General

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is not indicated for use in children under 18 years of age (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - General - POTENTIAL ASSOCIATION WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING SELF HARM).

Lower initial doses of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) are recommended for elderly and debilitated patients, and patients with renal or hepatic impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations).

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be administered once daily in the morning and may be taken with or without food. The tablet should be swallowed rather than chewed.

Dose Adjustments: Based on pharmacokinetic parameters, steady-state paroxetine hydrochloride plasma levels are achieved over a 7-14 day interval. Hence, dosage adjustments in 10 mg increments should be made at 1-2 week intervals or according to clinician judgment.

Maintenance: During long term therapy for any indication, the dosage should be maintained at the lowest effective level.

There is no body of evidence available to answer the question of how long a patient should continue to be treated with paroxetine hydrochloride. It is generally agreed that acute episodes of depression require several months or longer of sustained pharmacologic therapy. Whether the

dose of an antidepressant needed to induce remission is identical to the dose needed to maintain and/or sustain euthymia is unknown.

Systematic evaluation of the efficacy of paroxetine hydrochloride has shown that efficacy is maintained for at least 6 months with doses that averaged about 30 mg (see CLINICAL TRIALS - Depression).

Discontinuation of Treatment: Symptoms associated with the discontinuation of paroxetine hydrochloride have been reported in clinical trials and post marketing. Patients should be monitored for these and other symptoms when discontinuing treatment, regardless of the indication for which NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is being prescribed (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - General - Discontinuation of Treatment With NTP-PAROXETINE and ADVERSE REACTIONS - Adverse Reactions Following Discontinuation of Treatment).

A gradual reduction in the dose rather than abrupt cessation is recommended whenever possible. If intolerable symptoms occur following a decrease in the dose or upon discontinuation of treatment, dose titration should be managed on the basis of the patient's clinical response (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Adults

Depression

Usual Adult Dose: The administration of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be initiated at 20 mg daily. For most patients, 20 mg daily will also be the optimum dose. The therapeutic response may be delayed until the third or fourth week of treatment.

Dose Range: For those patients who do not respond adequately to the 20 mg daily dose, a gradual increase in dosage up to 40 mg daily may be considered. The maximum recommended daily dose is 50 mg.

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Usual Adult Dose: The administration of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be initiated at 20 mg/day. The recommended dose of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) in the treatment of OCD is 40 mg daily.

Dose Range: For those patients who do not respond adequately to the 40 mg daily dose, a gradual increase in dosage may be considered. The maximum recommended daily dose is 60 mg.

Panic Disorder

Usual Adult Dose: The recommended starting dose of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) in the treatment of panic disorder is 10 mg/day. The recommended dose of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) in the treatment of panic disorder is 40 mg daily.

Dose Range: For those patients who do not respond adequately to the 40 mg daily dose, a gradual increase in dosage may be considered. The maximum recommended daily dose is 60 mg.

Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder)

Usual Adult Dose: The recommended initial dosage is 20 mg/day. No clear dose-relationship has been demonstrated over a 20 to 60 mg/day dose range.

Dose Range: Some patients not responding adequately to a 20 mg dosage may benefit from gradual dosage increases, in 10 mg/day increments, up to a maximum of 50 mg/day.

Generalized Anxiety Disorder

Usual Adult Dose: The recommended initial dosage is 20 mg/day.

Dose Range: Some patients not responding adequately to a 20 mg dosage may benefit from gradual dosage increases, in 10 mg/day increments, up to a maximum of 50 mg/day.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Usual Adult Dose: The recommended starting dosage is 20 mg/day.

Dose Range: Some patients not responding adequately to a 20 mg/day dosage may benefit from gradual dosage increases, in 10 mg/day increments, up to a maximum of 50 mg/day.

Special Patient Populations:

Treatment of Pregnant Women:

Epidemiological studies of pregnancy outcomes following maternal exposure to antidepressants in the first trimester have reported an increase in the risk of congenital malformations, particularly cardiovascular (e.g. ventricular and atrial septal defects), associated with the use of (paroxetine hydrochloride). If a patient becomes pregnant while taking NTP-PAROXETINE, consideration should be given to switching to other treatment options. Treatment with NTP-PAROXETINE should only be continued for an individual patient, if the potential benefits outweigh the potential risks. For women who intend to become pregnant, or are in their first trimester of pregnancy, initiation of paroxetine hydrochloride should be considered only after other treatment options have been evaluated (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Special Populations - Pregnant Women and Newborns)

Post-marketing reports indicate that some neonates exposed to paroxetine hydrochloride, SSRIs, or other newer anti-depressants late in the third trimester have developed complications requiring prolonged hospitalization, respiratory support, and tube feeding (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Special Populations - Pregnant Women and Newborns) When treating

pregnant women with NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) during the third trimester, the physician should carefully consider the potential risks and benefits of treatment. The physician may consider tapering NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) in the third trimester.

Geriatrics (>65 years): Administration of paroxetine hydrochloride to the elderly is associated with increased plasma levels and prolongation of the elimination half life relative to younger adults (see ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). The recommended initial dose is 10 mg/day for elderly and/or debilitated patients. The dose may be increased if indicated up to a maximum of 40 mg daily.

Pediatrics: NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is not indicated for use in children under 18 years of age (see INDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - **General** - POTENTIAL ASSOCIATION WITH BEHAVIOURAL AND EMOTIONAL CHANGES, INCLUDING SELF HARM).

Renal/Hepatic Impairment: NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be used with caution in patients with renal or hepatic impairment. The recommended initial dose is 10 mg/day in patients with clinically significant renal or hepatic impairment. A maximum dose of 40 mg should not be exceeded (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY).

OVERDOSAGE

Symptoms of Overdosage

Patients have generally recovered without serious sequelae even when doses of up to 2000 mg have been taken alone. Events such as coma or ECG changes have occasionally been reported and, very rarely a fatal outcome, but generally when paroxetine hydrochloride was taken in conjunction with other psychotropic drugs, with or without alcohol.

Experience of paroxetine hydrochloride in overdose has indicated that, in addition to those symptoms mentioned under 'ADVERSE REACTIONS', vomiting, dilated pupils, fever, blood pressure changes, headache, involuntary muscle contractions, agitation, anxiety and tachycardia have been reported.

Treatment of Overdosage

No specific antidote is known.

Treatment should consist of those general measures employed in the management of overdose with any antidepressant. Establish and maintain an airway; ensure adequate oxygenation and ventilation. Where appropriate, the stomach should be emptied by lavage. Following evacuation, 20 to 30 grams of activated charcoal may be administered every 4 to 6 hours during the first 24 hours after ingestion. An ECG should be taken and monitoring of cardiac function instituted if there is any evidence of abnormality. Supportive care with frequent monitoring of vital signs and

careful observation is indicated. Due to the large volume of distribution of paroxetine hydrochloride, forced diuresis, dialysis, hemoperfusion and exchange transfusion are unlikely to be of benefit.

A specific caution involves patients taking or recently having taken NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) who might ingest by accident or intent excessive quantities of a tricyclic antidepressant. In such a case, accumulation of the parent tricyclic and its active metabolite may increase the possibility of clinically significant sequelae and extend the time needed for close medical observation.

In managing overdose, consider the possibility of multiple drug involvement. The physician should consider contacting a poison control center for additional information on the treatment of any overdose.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Paroxetine hydrochloride is a potent and selective serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT) reuptake inhibitor (SSRI). This activity of the drug on brain neurons is thought to be responsible for its antidepressant and anxiolytic action in the treatment of depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, social phobia (social anxiety disorder), generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Paroxetine hydrochloride is a phenylpiperidine derivative which is chemically unrelated to the tricyclic or tetracyclic antidepressants. In receptor binding studies, paroxetine hydrochloride did not exhibit significant affinity for the adrenergic (α_1, α_2 β), dopaminergic, serotonergic (5HT₁, 5HT₂), or histaminergic receptors of rat brain membrane. A weak affinity for the muscarinic acetylcholine receptor was evident. The predominant metabolites of paroxetine hydrochloride are essentially inactive as 5-HT reuptake inhibitors.

Pharmacokinetics

No clear dose relationship has been demonstrated for the antidepressant effects of paroxetine hydrochloride at doses above 20 mg/day. The results of fixed-dose studies comparing paroxetine hydrochloride and placebo in the treatment of depression, panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder revealed a dose dependency for some adverse events.

Absorption: Paroxetine is well absorbed after oral administration. In healthy volunteers, the absorption of a single 30 mg oral dose of paroxetine hydrochloride was not appreciably affected by the presence or absence of food.

Both the rate of absorption and the terminal elimination half-life appear to be independent of dose. Steady-state plasma concentrations of paroxetine hydrochloride are generally achieved in 7 to 14 days. No correlation has been established between paroxetine hydrochloride plasma concentrations and therapeutic efficacy or the incidence of adverse reactions.

In *healthy young* volunteers receiving a 20 mg daily dose of paroxetine hydrochloride for 15 days, the mean maximal plasma concentration was 41 ng/mL at steady state (see Table 4). Peak plasma levels generally occurred within 3 to 7 hours.

Distribution: Owing to the extensive distribution of paroxetine hydrochloride into the tissues, less than 1% of the total drug in the body is believed to reside in the systemic circulation.

At therapeutic concentrations, the plasma protein binding of paroxetine hydrochloride is approximately 95%. After the administration of a single 50 mg oral dose to lactating women, the concentrations of paroxetine hydrochloride detected in breast milk were similar to those in plasma.

Metabolism: Paroxetine hydrochloride is subject to a biphasic process of metabolic elimination which involves presystemic (first-pass) and systemic pathways. First-pass metabolism is extensive, but may be partially saturable, accounting for the increased bioavailability observed with multiple dosing. The metabolism of paroxetine hydrochloride is accomplished in part by cytochrome P450 (2D₆). Saturation of this enzyme at clinical doses appears to account for the nonlinearity of paroxetine hydrochloride kinetics with increasing dose and increasing duration of treatment. The role of this enzyme in paroxetine hydrochloride metabolism also suggests potential drug-drug interactions (see DRUG INTERACTIONS). The majority of the dose appears to be oxidized to a catechol intermediate which is converted to highly polar glucuronide and sulphate metabolites through methylation and conjugation reactions. The glucuronide and sulphate conjugates of paroxetine hydrochloride are about >10,000 and 3,000 times less potent, respectively, than the parent compound as inhibitors of 5-HT reuptake in rat brain synaptosomes.

Elimination: Following the single or multiple dose administration of paroxetine hydrochloride at doses of 20 to 50 mg, the mean elimination half-life value for healthy subjects appears to be about 24 hours, although a range of 3 to 65 hours has been reported.

Approximately 64% of an administered dose of paroxetine hydrochloride is eliminated by the kidneys and 36% in the faeces. Less than 2% of the dose is recovered in the form of the parent compound.

Special Populations and Conditions

Geriatrics: In elderly subjects, increased steady-state plasma concentrations and prolongation of the elimination half life were observed relative to younger adult controls (Table 4). Elderly patients should, therefore, be initiated and maintained at the lowest daily dosage of paroxetine hydrochloride which is associated with clinical efficacy (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - Geriatrics).

Hepatic Insufficiency: The results from a multiple dose pharmacokinetic study in subjects with severe hepatic dysfunction suggest that the clearance of paroxetine hydrochloride is markedly reduced in this patient group (see Table 4). As the elimination of paroxetine hydrochloride is dependent upon extensive hepatic metabolism, its use in patients with hepatic impairment should

be undertaken with caution (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Renal/Hepatic Impairment*).

Renal Insufficiency: In a single dose pharmacokinetic study in patients with mild to severe renal impairment, plasma levels of paroxetine hydrochloride tended to increase with deteriorating renal function (see Table 5). As multiple-dose pharmacokinetic studies have not been performed in patients with renal disease, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) should be used with caution in such patients (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION - Special Patient Populations - *Renal/Hepatic Impairment*).

TABLE 4
Steady state pharmacokinetics of paroxetine hydrochloride after doses of 20 mg daily
(mean and range)

	Young Healthy Subjects (n=22)	Elderly Healthy Subjects (n=22)	Hepatically* Impaired Subjects (n=10)
C _{max} (ss) (ng/mL)	41 (12-90)	87 (18-154)	87 (11-147)
T _{max} (ss) (hours)	5.0 (3-7)	5.0 (1-10)	6.4 (2-11)
C _{min} (ss) (ng/mL)	21 (4-51)	58 (9-127)	66 (7-128)
AUC (ss) (ng•h/mL)	660 (179-1436)	1580 (221-3286)	1720 (104-3283)
T _{1/2} (hour)	19 (8-43)	31 (13-92)	66 (17-152)

*Glucose elimination capacity 30-70% of normal.

A wide range of interindividual variation is observed for the pharmacokinetic parameters.

TABLE 5
Pharmacokinetics of paroxetine hydrochloride after a single 30 mg dose in normal subjects and those with
renal impairment

	^a Renally Impaired Severe (n=6)	^b Renally Impaired Moderate (n=6)	^c Healthy young subjects (n=6)
C _{max} (ng/mL)	46.2 (35.9-56.7)	36 (3.6-59.4)	19.8 (1.4-54.8)
T _{max} (hour)	6.5 (4.0-11.0)	4.8 (1.5-9.0)	4.3 (1-7)
AUC _∞ (ng•h/mL)	2046 (605-3695)	1053 (48-2087)	574 (21-2196)
T _{1/2} (hour)	29.7 (10.9-54.8)	18.3 (11.2-32.0)	17.3 (9.6-25.1)

^a Creatinine clearance = 13-27 mL/min ^b Creatinine clearance = 32-46 mL/min ^c Creatinine clearance >100 mL/min

Abbreviations:

C_{max} = maximum plasma concentration; T_{max} = time to reach C_{max}

AUC_∞ = Area under the plasma concentration time curve at infinity

T_{1/2} = terminal elimination half-life

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at 15 – 30°C

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) tablets contain paroxetine hydrochloride as an active ingredient. Tablets also contain the following inactive components: Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose, Isomalt D.C., Magnesium Hydroxide, Magnesium Stearate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Sodium Stearyl Fumarate, Povidone, Talc and Titanium dioxide. Tablets also contain the following inactive ingredients as part of the colour coating system: D&C Yellow No. 10 Aluminum Lake, D&C Red No. 30 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Yellow No. 6 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Blue No. 2 Aluminum Lake, Polyethylene Glycol 3350 and Titanium dioxide.

Tablets

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) tablets are supplied as follows:

10 mg tablets: Yellow, oval, biconvex, film-coated tablets, engraved with **N** on one side and **10** on the other side.

20 mg tablets: Pink, oval, bisected, biconvex, film-coated tablets, engraved with **N** on one side and **2** vertical bisect **0** on the other side.

30 mg tablets: Blue, oval, biconvex, film-coated tablets, engraved with **N** on one side and **30** on the other side.

10 mg and 30 mg tablets are available in bottles of 30's and 100's and in blisters (30 unit dose).
20 mg tablets are available in bottles of 100's and 500's and in blisters (30 unit dose).

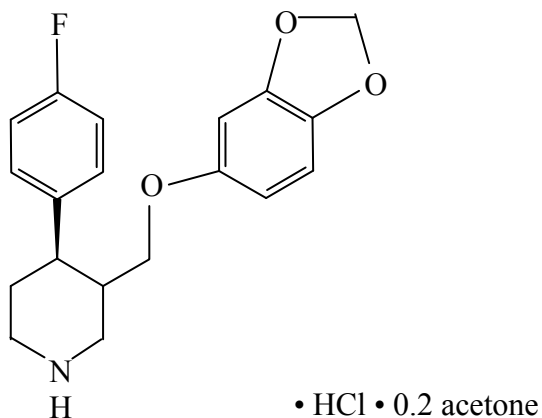
PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance

- Common name: Paroxetine hydrochloride acetone solvate
- Chemical name: 3S-trans)-(-)-(3S,4R)-4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-[[3,4-methylene dioxy]phenoxy]methyl]piperidine hydrochloride acetone solvate.
(3S,4R)-3-[[[(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)oxy]methyl]-4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidine hydrochloride acetone solvate.
- Molecular formula: $C_{19}H_{20}FNO_3 \cdot HCl \cdot 0.2$ acetone
- Molecular mass: 365.83 (as anhydrate salt)
329.38 (as free base)

Structural formula:



- Description: A white to off-white crystalline powder
- Melting point: 118-126°C
- pH-value: 5.5 to 7.5 (0.25 g substance and 50.0 mL water)
- pK_a-value: 8.4
- Solubility:
- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Methanol: | freely soluble |
| Dichloromethane: | sparingly soluble |
| Ethanol: | sparingly soluble |
| Water: | slightly soluble |

CLINICAL TRIALS

A comparative, blinded, single-dose, two-way crossover bioequivalence study was performed on NTP-Paroxetine 30 mg tablets, and Paxil[®] 30 mg Tablets, in 36 healthy subjects, under fasting conditions. The pharmacokinetic data calculated for the two formulations are tabulated below:

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE BIOAVAILABILITY DATA
Paroxetine Under Fasting Conditions

Paroxetine (1 x 30 mg) From measured data uncorrected for potency Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)			
Parameter	Test [*]	Reference [†]	% Ratio of Geometric Means
AUC _T (units)	193.91 336.25 (121)	168.09 298.03 (123)	115.36
AUC _I (units)	206.00 409.39 (149)	178.10 358.40 (149)	115.67
C _{MAX} (units)	11.27 14.94 (75)	9.65 13.16 (80)	116.85
T _{MAX} [§] (h)	5.71 (22)	5.43 (19)	
T _{1/2} [§] (h)	14.94 (69)	14.73 (64)	

* NTP-Paroxetine 30 mg (Teva Canada Ltd., Canada)

† Paxil[®] is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline Inc., Canada and purchased in Canada.

§ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

A comparative, blinded, single-dose, two-way crossover bioequivalence study was performed on NTP-Paroxetine 30 mg tablets, and Paxil® 30 mg Tablets, in 36 healthy subjects, under fed conditions. The pharmacokinetic data calculated for the two formulations are tabulated below:

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE BIOAVAILABILITY DATA
Paroxetine Under Fed Conditions

Paroxetine (1 x 30 mg) From measured data uncorrected for potency Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)			
Parameter	Test*	Reference†	% Ratio of Geometric Means
AUC _T (units)	126.477 183.780 (85)	127.525 185.044 (85)	99.18
AUC _I (units)	130.012 187.494 (85)	130.512 188.768 (85)	99.62
C _{MAX} (units)	7.914 11.254 (85)	7.680 10.763 (82)	103.04
T _{MAX} § (h)	5.85 (26)	6.10 (26)	
T _½ § (h)	11.99 (17)	12.07 (15)	

* NTP-Paroxetine 30 mg (Teva Canada Ltd., Canada)

† Paxil® is manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline Inc., Canada and purchased in Canada.

§ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

Depression

The efficacy of paroxetine hydrochloride as a treatment for depression has been established in six placebo-controlled clinical trials of 6 weeks in duration performed in patients with depression (ages 18 to 73). In these studies, paroxetine hydrochloride was shown to be significantly more effective than placebo in treating depression according to the following measures: Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS), the Hamilton depressed mood item, and the Clinical Global Impression (CGI)-Severity of Illness.

A study of outpatients with recurrent major depressive disorder who had responded to paroxetine hydrochloride (HDRS total score <8) during an initial 8-week open-treatment phase and were then randomized to continuation on paroxetine hydrochloride or placebo for 1 year demonstrated that a significantly lower proportion of patients treated with paroxetine hydrochloride (15%)

compared to placebo (39%) met criteria for partial relapse^a. Criteria for full relapse^b were met by a significantly lower percentage of paroxetine hydrochloride treated patients (12%) compared to placebo treated patients (28%). Effectiveness was similar for male and female patients.

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Three double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trials of 12 weeks in duration have been performed to investigate the efficacy of paroxetine hydrochloride in obsessive-compulsive disorder: two flexible dose studies (20-60 mg/day) and one fixed dose study (20, 40, & 60 mg/day). Results for the fixed dose study and one of the flexible dose studies showed statistically significant differences from placebo in favour of paroxetine hydrochloride in terms of mean change from baseline to endpoint on the Yale-Brown Obsessive-Compulsive Scale and/or the National Institute of Mental Health Obsessive-Compulsive Scale. In the fixed dose study, the proportion of patients who were considered to be much or very much improved at endpoint according to a Clinical Global Impression of Improvement was 15% (13/88) in the placebo group, 20% (17/85) in the 20 mg/day group, 36% (30/83) in the 40 mg/day group, and 37% (31/83) in the 60 mg/day group. In the two flexible dose studies, placebo response rates according to this criterion were 28% (28/99) and 25% (19/75), while paroxetine hydrochloride response rates were 45% (89/198) and 35% (28/79), respectively.

Panic Disorder

One fixed dose and three flexible dose placebo-controlled clinical trials of 10 to 12 weeks in duration have been performed to investigate the efficacy of paroxetine hydrochloride in panic disorder. The fixed dose study and two of the three flexible dose studies were supportive of differences from placebo in favour of paroxetine hydrochloride for measures of panic attack frequency. At endpoint, in the fixed dose study, the proportion of patients who were free of panic attacks was 44% (29/66) for the placebo group, 56% (33/59) for the 10 mg/day paroxetine hydrochloride group, 57% (35/61) for the 20 mg/day paroxetine hydrochloride group, and 76% (47/62) for the 40 mg/day paroxetine hydrochloride group.

Social Phobia (Social Anxiety Disorder)

One fixed dose and two flexible dose placebo-controlled clinical trials of 12 weeks in duration have been performed to investigate the efficacy of paroxetine hydrochloride in social phobia (social anxiety disorder). These studies showed statistically significant differences from placebo in favour of paroxetine hydrochloride in terms of mean change from baseline to endpoint on the Liebowitz Social Anxiety Scale and the percentage of therapeutic responders according to the Clinical Global Impression of Improvement. In the fixed dose study, the proportion of patients who were considered to be much or very much improved at week 12 of treatment according to the Clinical Global Impression of Improvement was 28.3% (26/92) in the placebo group, 44.9% (40/89) in the 20 mg/day group, 46.6% (41/88) in the 40 mg/day group, and 42.9% (39/91) in the 60 mg/day group. In the two flexible dose (20-50 mg/day) studies, placebo response rates

^a Partial relapse was characterized by requirement for additional antidepressant medication and fulfillment of DSM III-R criteria for major depressive episode.

^b Full relapse was characterized by requirement for additional antidepressant treatment, fulfillment of DSM III-R criteria for major depressive episode, deterioration in depressive symptoms for a least 1 week, increase in CGI-Severity of Illness score by ≥ 2 points and CGI-Severity of Illness score of ≥ 4 (least moderately ill).

according to this criterion were 23.9% (22/92) and 32.4% (47/145), while paroxetine hydrochloride response rates were 54.9% (50/91) and 65.7% (90/137), respectively.

Generalized Anxiety Disorder

The effectiveness of paroxetine hydrochloride in the treatment of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD) (DSM IV) was demonstrated in two 8-week, multicentre, placebo-controlled studies. One trial was a flexible dose (20-50 mg/day) study while the other was a multiple fixed dose (20 or 40 mg/day) study. In both studies paroxetine hydrochloride demonstrated statistically significant superiority over placebo on the primary outcome measure- the Hamilton Rating Scale for Anxiety (HAM-A) total score, and on a number of secondary outcomes including the HAM-A anxiety and tension items, the Clinical Global Impression (CGI) responder criterion and the Sheehan Disability Scale (SDS). An additional 8-week flexible dose study did not demonstrate a significant difference between paroxetine hydrochloride (20-50 mg/day), and placebo on the primary outcome measure. However, paroxetine hydrochloride (20-50 mg/day) was more effective than placebo on many secondary study outcomes.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

The efficacy of paroxetine hydrochloride in the treatment of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was demonstrated in two 12 week, multicenter placebo controlled studies (Study 1 and Study 2) in adult patients who met the DSM-IV criteria for PTSD. Study outcome was assessed by (i) the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale Part (CAPS-2) score and (ii) the Clinical Global Impression Global Improvement Item (CGI-I). The CAPS-2 is a multi-item instrument that measures the three PTSD diagnostic symptom clusters of: reexperiencing/intrusion, avoidance/numbing and hyperarousal. The two primary outcomes for each trial were (i) change from baseline to endpoint on the CAPS-2 total score (17 items), and (ii) proportion of responders on the CGI-I, where responders were defined as patients having a score of 1 (very much improved) or 2 (much improved).

Study 1 was a 12 week study comparing fixed paroxetine hydrochloride doses of 20 mg or 40 mg/day to placebo. Paroxetine 20 mg and 40 mg were demonstrated to be significantly superior to placebo for the CAPS-2 total score, and on proportion of responders on the CGI-I.

Study 2 was a 12-week flexible-dose study comparing paroxetine hydrochloride (20 mg to 50 mg daily) to placebo. Paroxetine was demonstrated to be significantly superior to placebo for the CAPS-2 total scorer, and on proportion of responders on the CGI-I.

The majority (66-68%) of patients in these trials were women. Subgroup analyses did not indicate differences in treatment outcomes as a function of gender. There were an insufficient number of patients who were 65 years or older or were non-Caucasian to conduct subgroup analyses on the basis of age or race, respectively.

DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Animal Pharmacology

In vitro: Paroxetine hydrochloride showed a high potency for the inhibition of 5-HT reuptake in rat hypothalamic synaptosomes ($K_i=1.1\text{nM}$) but exerted relatively weak effects upon

noradrenaline reuptake ($K_i=350\text{nM}$). The predominant metabolites of paroxetine hydrochloride, a sulphate and a glucuronide conjugate, were essentially inactive as 5-HT reuptake inhibitors. Paroxetine has a low affinity for muscarinic cholinergic receptors (K_i of 89 nM for displacement of [^3H] quinuclidinyl benzilate). Animal studies have indicated only weak anticholinergic properties.

Radioligand binding techniques in rat brain, in vitro, have indicated that paroxetine hydrochloride has little affinity for α_1, α_2 and β -adrenoceptors, dopamine (D_2) 5-HT $_1$ -like, 5-HT $_2$ and histamine (H_1) receptors at concentrations below 1 μM . This lack of interaction with post-synaptic receptors in vitro is substantiated by in vivo studies which demonstrate a lack of CNS depressant and hypotensive properties.

In vivo: In mice, paroxetine hydrochloride ($\text{ED}_{50}=0.4\text{ mg/kg p.o.}$) was associated with potent and prolonged potentiation of the hypermotility induced by the 5-HT precursor, 5-hydroxytryptophan. Similarly, the anticonvulsant effects of 5-hydroxytryptophan in a mouse electroshock model were potentiated by paroxetine hydrochloride ($\text{ED}_{50}=0.4\text{ mg/kg p.o.}$). In rats paroxetine hydrochloride ($\text{ED}_{50}=0.8\text{ mg/kg p.o.}$) inhibited the hypermotility induced by p-chloroamphetamine, an agent which depletes neuronal 5-HT stores. Paroxetine, 1 mg/kg i.p., in conscious rats with chronically implanted cortical electrodes, produced essentially no changes in the power spectrum and frequency analysis of the EEG.

Electrophysiological measures have demonstrated that paroxetine hydrochloride has a vigilance-increasing activity in animals. Oral doses of paroxetine hydrochloride 0.32 to 18 mg/kg to rats lengthened the waking period and shortened the slow-wave and paradoxical sleep periods in a dose-dependent fashion. As with other selective 5-HT uptake inhibitors, paroxetine hydrochloride, at a dose of 5 mg/kg i.p., causes symptoms of excessive 5-HT receptor stimulation when administered to rats previously given monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors such as tranylcypromine or phenelzine, or the 5-HT precursor L-tryptophan.

Behavioural and EEG studies indicate that paroxetine hydrochloride is weakly activating at doses above those generally required to inhibit 5-HT reuptake. The activating properties are not "amphetamine-like" in nature. In rats trained to discriminate d-amphetamine, 1 mg/kg i.p., from saline, no generalization to amphetamine was observed after administration of paroxetine hydrochloride (0.3, 1, 3 or 10 mg/kg i.p.). Paroxetine caused seizures in mice at a lethal dose of 300 mg/kg p.o. At a dose of 50 mg/kg p.o., paroxetine hydrochloride lowered the threshold for electroshock-induced seizures in mice.

Animal studies indicate that paroxetine hydrochloride is well tolerated by the cardiovascular system. When the cardiovascular effects of paroxetine hydrochloride and amitriptyline were compared in the conscious rabbit and anaesthetized cat, intravenous doses of paroxetine hydrochloride approximately 2 to 4 times higher (on a mg/kg basis) than those of amitriptyline were required to produce significant changes in blood pressure, heart rate and electrocardiographic parameters. Similarly, in the pentobarbital anaesthetized dog, i.v. imipramine, amitriptyline and clomipramine (in doses of 10 mg/kg) caused severe atrioventricular block and ventricular arrhythmia's, while equivalent doses of paroxetine

hydrochloride resulted in only slight prolongation of the PQ interval. In addition, low doses (0.3 to 1 mg/kg) of the tricyclic antidepressants caused marked tachycardia, whereas paroxetine hydrochloride in doses up to 10 mg/kg had no effect on heart rate.

Studies in the spontaneous hypertensive rat indicate that, in contrast to antidepressants which inhibit the uptake of noradrenaline, paroxetine hydrochloride at 5 mg/kg i.v. has a much reduced propensity to inhibit the antihypertensive effects of guanethidine.

5-HT is transported into blood platelets and central neurons by a similar active uptake transporter mechanism in the cell membrane. Thus, in common with other selective 5-HT reuptake inhibitors, administration of paroxetine hydrochloride results in depletion of 5-HT from platelets. This has been reported after repeated daily administration of paroxetine hydrochloride at doses of 0.1, 1 and 10 mg/kg i.p. in mice and rats, 1-7.5 mg/kg p.o. in monkeys and 10-50 mg orally to healthy human volunteers. Similarly, whole blood 5-HT levels were shown to be depleted in depressed patients after paroxetine hydrochloride administration.

Human Pharmacology: Paroxetine hydrochloride 30 mg administered in single doses to healthy non-depressed volunteers did not impair psychomotor function which was measured by psychomotor tasks such as Morse tapping and motor manipulation, assessment of subjective perception and general assessment of arousal.

Paroxetine hydrochloride at doses of up to 40 mg daily produces no clinically significant changes in blood pressure, heart rate or ECG after administration to healthy subjects.

TOXICOLOGY

General toxicity studies have been conducted in rhesus monkeys and rats, in both of which the metabolic pathway for paroxetine hydrochloride is the same as in man.

Acute Toxicity

In relation to the clinical dose, the acute LD₅₀ of paroxetine hydrochloride is very high in both mice and rats (approximately 350 mg/kg).

Long-Term Toxicity

The no-toxic effect levels in the rhesus monkeys and rats were 4-10 times and 6-15 times the recommended range of clinical doses respectively. At higher doses (40 mg/kg for 3 months and 25 mg/kg for 12 months), lipidosis was observed in several tissues of rats (lungs, mesenteric lymph nodes, epididymides, retinal tissues - the latter by electron microscopy only). As paroxetine hydrochloride is a lipophilic amine with both hydrophobic and hydrophilic moieties, it may accumulate in lysosomes leading to an impairment of lipid catabolism and, hence, the accumulation of lipids within the lysosomes. It should be noted that the slight degree of lipidosis seen in the rat was restricted to doses and plasma levels much higher than those observed in man. In a clinical study investigating lamellated inclusion bodies in peripheral white blood cells during long term therapy, no difference between placebo and paroxetine hydrochloride could be detected.

Carcinogenicity

No carcinogenic potential was detected in rat (dose levels of 1, 5 and 20 mg/kg/day) and mouse (dose levels of 1, 5 and 25 mg/kg/day) life-span studies. A non dose-related increase in malignant liver cell tumours occurred in male mice at 1 and 5 mg/kg/day which was statistically significant at 5 mg/kg/day. There was no increase at 25 mg/kg/day or in female mice and the incidence was within the historical control range.

Reproduction and Impairment of Fertility Studies

5-Hydroxytryptamine and compounds modulating this amine are known to affect reproductive function in animals and at high dose levels cause marked overt toxicity. Paroxetine at 15 and 50 mg/kg (hydrochloride salt) has been shown to impair reproductive function in rats.

In male rats, chronic administration of a 50 mg/kg dose has been associated with granulomatous reactions in the epididymides accompanied by atrophy and degeneration of the seminiferous tubules. There were no biologically significant effects on fertility of female rats but corpora lutea count was slightly reduced and preimplantation loss slightly increased at 50 mg/kg in association with marked maternal toxicity.

Teratology Studies

Reproduction studies were performed in rats and rabbits at doses up to 42 and 5 times the maximum recommended daily human dose (60 mg) on a mg/kg basis. These are 8.3 (rat) and 1.7 (rabbit) times the maximum recommended human dose on a mg/m² basis. These studies have revealed no evidence of teratogenic effects or of selective toxicity to the embryo.

Immunotoxicity Studies

Specific studies have demonstrated that paroxetine hydrochloride is unlikely to possess the potential for immunotoxicity.

Serum samples were obtained from depressed patients who had received 30 mg of paroxetine hydrochloride daily for between six and twelve months, from groups of rats on a repeat dose toxicity study in which daily doses of 1, 5 and 25 mg/kg of paroxetine hydrochloride were administered for 52 weeks, from guinea pigs epicutaneously exposed (topically under an occlusive patch) to paroxetine hydrochloride, and from New Zealand White (NZW) rabbits parenterally (i.m. and s.c.) injected with paroxetine hydrochloride in Freund's adjuvant. In addition as a positive control, sera were obtained from NZW rabbits which had been immunized by i.m. and s.c. injections of Freund's adjuvant emulsions containing paroxetine hydrochloride chemically conjugated to bovine gamma globulin (BGG).

Serum antibody levels were assessed by enzyme- or radio-immunoassays (ELISA or RIA). No anti-paroxetine antibody activity was detected in serum samples from patients, from rats in the toxicity study, from guinea pigs epicutaneously exposed to paroxetine hydrochloride, or from rabbits parenterally injected with paroxetine hydrochloride. Serum anti-paroxetine antibody was detected in rabbits immunized with Freund's adjuvant emulsions containing paroxetine hydrochloride coupled with BGG, verifying that the RIA system employed was capable of detecting antibodies directed against paroxetine hydrochloride.

Paroxetine hydrochloride also did not induce contact sensitivity reactions in guinea pigs following epicutaneous exposure.

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PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**^PNTP-PAROXETINE**

(Paroxetine as Paroxetine Hydrochloride Acetone Solvate)

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride). Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

Please read this information before you start to take your medication, even if you have taken this drug before. Keep this information with your medicine in case you need to read it again.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**What the medication is used for:**

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) has been prescribed to you by your doctor to relieve your symptoms of:

- depression, (feeling sad, a change in appetite or weight, difficulty concentrating or sleeping, feeling tired, headaches, unexplained aches and pain)
- panic attacks
- social phobia (social anxiety disorder) - avoidance and/or fear of social situations,
- generalized anxiety or nervousness
- obsessive compulsive disorder (recurrent and intrusive thought, feeling, idea or sensation; recurrent pattern of behavior, or unwanted thoughts or actions), or
- posttraumatic stress disorder (anxiety following a traumatic event, for example a car crash, physical assault, natural disaster such as an earthquake).

What it does:

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) belongs to the family of medicines called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. NTP-PAROXETINE is thought to work by increasing the levels of a chemical in the brain called serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine).

When it should not be used:

Do not use NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) if you are:

- allergic to it or any of the components of its formulation (see list of components at the end of this section).
- currently taking or have recently taken monoamine oxidase inhibitor antidepressants (e.g. phenelzine sulphate, moclobemide),
- currently taking or have recently taken thioridazine or pimozide.

What the medicinal ingredient is:

Paroxetine hydrochloride.

What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

Tablets contain the following inactive components: Hydroxypropyl Methylcellulose, Isomalt D.C., Magnesium Hydroxide, Magnesium Stearate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Sodium Stearyl Fumarate, Povidone, Talc and Titanium dioxide. Tablets also contain the following inactive ingredients as part of the colour coating system: D&C Yellow No. 10 Aluminum Lake, D&C Red No. 30 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Yellow No. 6 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Blue No. 2 Aluminum Lake, Polyethylene Glycol 3350 and Titanium dioxide.

What dosage forms it comes in:

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is available as 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg Tablets.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

During treatment with these types of medication it is important that you and your doctor have good ongoing communication about how you are feeling.

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) is not for use in children under 18 years of age.

New or Worsened Emotional or Behavioral Problems

Particularly in the first few weeks or when doses are adjusted, a small number of patients taking drugs of this type may feel worse instead of better; for example, they may experience unusual feelings of agitation, hostility or anxiety, or have impulsive or disturbing thoughts such as thoughts of self-harm or harm to others. Should this happen to you, or to those in your care if you are a caregiver or guardian, consult your doctor immediately. Close observation by a doctor is necessary in this situation. **Do not discontinue your medication on your own.**

BEFORE you use NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) tell your doctor:

- all your medical conditions, including a history of seizures, epilepsy, glaucoma, liver or kidney disease, heart problems or history of any abnormal bleeding;
- any medications (prescription or non prescription) which you are taking or have recently taken, especially monoamine oxidase inhibitor antidepressants (e.g. phenelzine sulphate, moclobemide) or any other antidepressants, thioridazine, pimozide, drugs used to prevent fits (anticonvulsants), drugs for Parkinson's disease, or drugs containing tryptophan or drugs used that increase risk of bleeding (e.g. anticoagulants);
- if you have ever had any allergic reaction to medications, food, etc.

- any natural or herbal products you are taking (e.g. St. John’s Wort);
- if you are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, or if you are breast feeding;
- your habits of alcohol and /or street drug consumption.
- if you drive a vehicle or perform hazardous tasks during your work.

Effects on Pregnancy and Newborns

As stated above, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine including NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride). **If you are already taking/using NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) and have just found out that you are pregnant, you should talk to your doctor immediately. You should also talk to your doctor if you planning to become pregnant.** This is because some studies have suggested an increase of risk of birth defects particularly heart defects, in babies whose mothers received NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) in the first few months of pregnancy. These studies found that about 2 in 100 babies (2%) whose mothers received paroxetine hydrochloride in early pregnancy had a heart defect, compared with the normal rate of 1 in 100 babies (1%) seen in the general population. Also, in cases where paroxetine hydrochloride has been used, there have been reports of premature births although it is not known if these premature births are due to the use of paroxetine hydrochloride.

Post-marketing reports indicate that some newborns whose mothers took an SSRI (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor) or other newer anti-depressant, during pregnancy have developed complications at birth requiring prolonged hospitalization, breathing support and tube feeding. Reported symptoms included feeding and/or breathing difficulties, seizures, tense or overly relaxed muscles, jitteriness, constant crying, cyanosis (bluish coloration of skin), vomiting, hypoglycaemia and tremors.

In most cases, the newer anti-depressant was taken during the third trimester of pregnancy. These symptoms are consistent with either a direct adverse effect of the anti depressant on the baby, or possibly a discontinuation syndrome caused by sudden withdrawal from the drug. These symptoms normally resolve over time. However, if your baby experiences any of these symptoms, contact your doctor as soon as you can.

If you are pregnant and taking an SSRI, or other newer anti-depressant, you should discuss the risks and benefits of the various treatment options with your doctor. It is very important that you do NOT stop taking these medications without first consulting your doctor. See SIDE EFFECTS

AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM section for more information

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) interacts with other drugs. Do not use NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) if you are taking or have recently taken monoamine oxidase inhibitors, thioridazine, or pimozide.

Concomitant use of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) with other drugs may require dosage adjustments.

You should tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken any medications (prescription, non prescription or natural/herbal), especially:

- other antidepressants, such as SSRIs and certain tricyclics
- other drugs that affect serotonin such as, lithium, linezolid, tramadol, tryptophan, St. John’s Wort, triptans used to treat migraines
- certain medicines used to treat patients with irregular heart beats (arrhythmias)
- certain medicines used to treat schizophrenia
- certain medicines used to treat bipolar depression, such as lithium.
- A combination of fosamprenavir and ritonavir, used to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection
- procyclidine, which is used to treat Parkinson’s Disease or other movement disorders
- metoprolol, which is used to treat high blood pressure and angina
- certain medicines which may affect blood clotting and increase bleeding, such as oral anti-coagulants (e.g. warfarin), aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. ibuprofen)
- certain medicines used to treat epilepsy
- Alcoholic beverages should be avoided completely while taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride). Check with your doctor if you want to drink alcohol while you are taking this medicine.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Usual dose:

- It is very important that you take NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) exactly as your doctor has instructed. Generally most people take between 20 mg to 40 mg of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) per day for depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, social phobia (social anxiety disorder), generalized anxiety disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder; although your

doctor may start you at 10 mg per day for panic disorder.

- Take your tablets in the morning, preferably with food. You should swallow the tablets whole with water. Do not chew them.
- You should continue to take your medicine even if you do not feel better, as it may take a number of weeks for your medicine to work.
- Keep taking your tablets, as instructed, until the doctor tells you to stop
- Talk to your doctor before you stop taking your medication on your own.

Remember: This medicine has been prescribed only for you. Do not give this medicine to anybody else, even if their condition seems similar to yours, as they may experience undesirable effects, which may be serious.

Missed Dose:

If you forget to take your tablet in the morning, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only that dose. Do not take double or extra dose. Take your next dose at the normal time the next morning.

Overdose:

If you have taken a large number of tablets all at once, contact your doctor or the nearest hospital emergency department immediately, even though you may not feel sick. Show the doctor your pack of tablets.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Like all medications, NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) can cause some side effects. You may not experience any of them. For most patients these side effects are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious. Some of these side effects may be dose related. Consult your doctor if you experience these or other side effects, as the dose may have to be adjusted.

If you experience an allergic reaction (including skin rash, hives, swelling, trouble breathing) or any severe or unusual side effects, stop taking the drug and contact your doctor immediately.

The most common side effects of paroxetine are:

- nausea
- dry mouth
- drowsiness
- weakness
- dizziness
- sweating
- nervousness
- sleep disturbances
- sexual problems
- tremors

- Although psychiatric disorders are often associated with decreases in sexual desire, performance and satisfaction, treatment with this medication may lead to further decreases.

Other effects may include loss of appetite, constipation, and diarrhea.

NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) does not usually affect people’s normal activities. However, some people feel sleepy while taking it, in which case they should not drive or operate machinery.

New or Worsened Emotional or Behavioral Problems

A small number of patients taking a drug of this type may feel worse instead of better; for example, they may experience new or worsened feelings of agitation, hostility or anxiety, or thoughts about suicide. Your doctor should be informed of such changes immediately. Close observation by a doctor is necessary in this situation. Do not discontinue your medication on your own, See also the WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS section.

Discontinuation Symptoms

Contact your doctor before stopping or reducing your dosage of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride). Symptoms such as dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting, agitation/restlessness, anxiety, sweating, headache, sleep disturbance, electric shock sensations, tinnitus (buzzing, hissing, whistling, ringing or other persistent noise in the ears) and other symptoms have been reported after stopping treatment, reducing the dosage of paroxetine, or when a dose is missed. These symptoms usually disappear without needing treatment. Tell your doctor immediately if you have these or any other symptoms. Your doctor may adjust the dosage of NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) to alleviate the symptoms. See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS section for more information.

Effects on Newborns

Some newborns whose mothers took an SSRI (Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor) or other newer anti depressant, such as NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride), during pregnancy have shown such symptoms as breathing and feeding difficulties, jitteriness and constant crying. If your baby experiences any of these symptoms, contact your doctor as soon as you can. See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS section for more information.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom/Effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist	Stop taking drug and call your
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		Only if severe	In all cases	doctor of pharmacist
Uncommon	Bruising or unusual bleeding from the skin or other areas		✓	
Uncommon	Hallucinations (strange visions or sounds)		✓	
Uncommon	Uncontrollable movements of the body or face		✓	
Uncommon	Inability to urinate		✓	
Rare	Allergic reactions (red and lumpy skin rash, hives, swelling, trouble breathing)			✓*
Rare	Low sodium level in blood (symptoms of tiredness, weakness, confusion combined with achy, stiff or uncoordinated muscles)		✓	
Rare	Akathisia (feeling restless and unable to sit or stand still)		✓	
Rare	Mania (overactive behaviour and thoughts)		✓	
Rare	Seizure (loss of consciousness with uncontrollable shaking (“fit”))		✓*	
Very Rare	Serotonin syndrome (a combination of most or all of the following: confusion, restlessness, sweating, shaking, shivering, hallucinations, sudden jerking of the muscles, fast heartbeat)		✓*	
Very Rare	Increased pressure in the eyes (symptoms of eye pain and blurred vision)		✓	
Very Rare	Gastrointestinal bleeding (vomiting blood or passing blood in stools)		✓*	

Symptom/Effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor of pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Very Rare	Liver disorder (symptoms include nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite combined with itching, yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine)		✓*	
See Warnings & Precautions	New or Worsened Emotional or Behavioral Problems		✓*	

*If you think you have these side effects, it is important that you seek medical advice from your doctor immediately

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.
- Store at room temperature (15-30°C) in a dry place.
- Keep container tightly closed.
- If your doctor tells you to stop taking NTP-PAROXETINE (paroxetine hydrochloride) please return any left over medicine to your pharmacist.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

To monitor drug safety, Health Canada collects information on serious and unexpected effects of drugs. If you suspect you have had a serious or unexpected reaction to this drug you may notify Health Canada by:

toll-free telephone: 866-234-2345

toll-free fax: 866-678-6789

By email: cadmp@hc-sc.gc.ca

By regular mail:

National AR Centre

Marketed Health Products Safety and Effectiveness

Information Division

Marketed Health Products Directorate

Tunney's Pasture, AL 0701C

Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

NOTE: Before contacting Health Canada, you should contact your physician or pharmacist.

MORE INFORMATION

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found by contacting :

Teva Canada Ltd. at:

at: 1-800-268-4127 ext. 5005

or druginfo@tevacanada.com

This leaflet was prepared by:

Teva Canada Ltd.

30 Novopharm Court

Toronto, Ontario

Canada, M1B 2K9

Last revised: September 23, 2013