

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

## *Patient Drug Education*

### **TRAZODONE 150 MG TABLET**

#### **USES:**

This medication is used to treat depression. Trazodone works by helping to restore the balance of a certain natural chemical (serotonin) in the brain.

#### **HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:**

**HOW TO USE:** Read the Medication Guide and Patient Information Leaflet provided by your pharmacist before you start using trazodone and each time you get a refill. If you have any questions, consult your doctor or pharmacist. Take this medication by mouth, usually once or twice daily after a meal or snack or as directed by your doctor. If drowsiness is a problem and you are taking 1 dose daily, take it at bedtime. If you are taking 2 doses each day, it may help to take 1 of the doses at bedtime. Follow your doctor's directions carefully. Dosage is based on your medical condition and response to treatment. To reduce your risk of side effects, your doctor may start you at a low dose and gradually increase your dose. Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Do not increase your dose or take this medication more often than prescribed. Your condition will not improve any faster, and the risk of serious side effects may be increased. It is important to continue taking this medication as prescribed even if you feel well. To help you remember, take it at the same time(s) each day. Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Nausea, headache, or tiredness can occur if the drug is suddenly stopped. It may take 2 to 4 weeks before you notice the full effects of this medication. Tell your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

See also the Warning section. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, drowsiness, dizziness, tiredness, blurred vision, changes in weight, headache, muscle ache/pain, dry mouth, bad taste in the mouth, stuffy nose, constipation, or change in sexual interest/ability may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly. To relieve dry mouth, suck on (sugarless) hard candy or ice chips, chew (sugarless) gum, drink water, or use a saliva substitute. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: fainting, shaking (tremors), nightmares, ringing in the ears, problems urinating, blood in urine, chest/jaw/left arm pain. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: slow/fast/irregular heartbeat, signs of infection (e.g., fever, persistent sore throat), seizures, shortness of breath, stomach/abdominal pain, black stools, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, easy bruising/bleeding. For males, in the very unlikely event you have a painful or prolonged erection (priapism) lasting 4 or more hours, stop using this drug and seek immediate medical attention, or permanent problems could occur. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, seek immediate medical attention if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before taking trazodone, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to nefazodone; or if you have any other allergies. This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: history of priapism from taking trazodone, recent heart attack. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: personal or family history of bipolar disorder, personal or family history of suicide attempts, heart disease (e.g., irregular heartbeat), liver disease, kidney disease, blood pressure problems. This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy or cause blurred vision. Use caution while driving, using machinery, or doing any activity that requires alertness or clear vision. Limit alcoholic beverages. To reduce the risk of dizziness and lightheadedness, get up slowly when rising from a sitting or lying position. Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to the effects of the drug, especially drowsiness and dizziness. During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Your doctor or pharmacist may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for them. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with your doctor or pharmacist first. This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: sibutramine. If you are currently using any of these medications listed above, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting trazodone. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: other antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline, bupropion, fluoxetine, nefazodone, venlafaxine), digoxin, drugs that affect certain liver enzymes (CYP 3A4 substrates, inhibitors, and inducers such as azole antifungals, HIV protease inhibitor drugs such as ritonavir, macrolide antibiotics, cimetidine, rifamycins, St. John's wort, atazanavir, anti-seizure medications such as carbamazepine), other drugs that can cause bleeding/bruising (e.g., anticoagulants such as heparin or warfarin, antiplatelet drugs including NSAIDs such as ibuprofen), drugs for high blood pressure, ginkgo, MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, isocarboxazid, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine). Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you also take drugs that cause drowsiness such as: certain antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine), anti-seizure drugs (e.g., phenytoin), medicine for sleep or anxiety (e.g., alprazolam, diazepam, zolpidem), muscle relaxants, narcotic pain relievers (e.g., codeine), psychiatric medicines (e.g., chlorpromazine, risperidone). Check the labels on all your medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products) because they may contain ingredients that may cause drowsiness. Ask your pharmacist about using those products safely. Check all prescription and nonprescription medicine labels carefully since many medications contain pain relievers/fever reducers (NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen) that may increase your risk for bleeding if taken together with this drug. Low-dose aspirin should be continued if prescribed by your doctor for specific medical reasons such as heart attack or stroke prevention (usually at dosages of

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

81-325 milligrams per day). Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details. Before you have surgery with a general anesthetic, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist you are taking trazodone.

## **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others. Psychiatric and/or medical checkups (and laboratory tests) should be done periodically to monitor your progress and check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details. Have your blood pressure and pulse checked regularly while taking this medication. Discuss with your doctor how to monitor your own blood pressure and pulse.

## **MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

## **STORAGE:**

Store at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store above 104 degrees F (40 degrees C). Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.