

# **SELECTIVE SEROTONIN RE-UP TAKE INHIBITORS (SSRI'S)**

## **Antidepressants**

### **Description and Uses**

SSRI's represent an important class of newer antidepressants. The serotonin reuptake inhibitors work by allowing the body to make the best use of the reduced amounts of serotonin that it has at the time. They are often the best choice for a depressed person with PD who also has cognitive difficulties and experiences excessive daytime sleepiness. These drugs are thought to have an "alerting effect," and may counteract the sedative component of traditional antiparkinson medications.

SSRI's include:

- flouxetine (Prozac®)
- sertraline (Zoloft ®)
- paroxetine (Paxil®)
- fluvoxamine (Luvox®)
- citalopram (Celexa®)

### **Dosage**

These medications are often quite simple to administer with a single dose given in the morning.

SSRI's usually require 2 – 6 several weeks before you notice the benefits.

### **Side Effects**

- nausea, indigestion, abdominal pain
- diarrhea or constipation
- loss of appetite, weight loss
- increased appetite, weight gain
- allergic reactions
- dry mouth
- irritability / anxiety
- sleeplessness
- drowsiness
- headache
- shaking
- dizziness
- fits / convulsions
- disturbance of sexual function (but this is also a feature of depression)
- sweating
- bruising
- manic or hypomanic behaviour
- abnormal movements
- low sodium level
- increased tremor

**Do not stop your medication without talking to your doctor  
or a neurology resident on call.**