

## **Fluoxetine hydrochloride 20 mg tablet**

Since 2002, MSF has recommended fluoxetine, a selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitor (SSRIs) for the treatment of depression and severe post-traumatic stress disorder. Citalopram, fluvoxamine, paroxetine and sertraline are other examples of this pharmacological class and can be used as well in the treatment of depression. SSRIs can be particularly useful when tricyclic antidepressants are contra-indicated, not well tolerated or are not effective. Since no single drug has been shown to be significantly more effective than other SSRIs, and according to application prepared by Who Collaborating Centre and Training in Mental Health, MSF recommends the inclusions of fluoxetine in the list as a representative of the SSRIs group of medications for the treatment of depression.

MSF urges the 15<sup>th</sup> Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines to include fluoxetine as a representative of SSRIs in the core list.

29 January 2007

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**MSF**