

## Paxil antidepressant may up suicide risk

Drug manufacturers claim that antidepressants reduce the risk of suicide. New research suggests otherwise—especially with regards to paroxetine (Paxil), a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressant. SSRIs are widely used and, according to the April 2003 *Canada Adverse Reaction Newsletter*, represent the largest market share of all prescribed antidepressants in Canada.

Confidential data obtained from manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline revealed that their own clinical trials with Paxil showed that the drug increased suicide risk nine-

or 10-fold. One of out every 60 depressed people taking the drug attempted suicide, compared to out of 550 people taking a placebo sugar pill. The story originally appeared on the BBC and was also reported May 21, 2003 in *Research Protection*.

Other reported side-effects to SSRI antidepressants, which also include fluoxetine (Prozac) and sertraline (Zoloft), are feelings of anxiety, nervousness, upset stomach, nausea, headache, insomnia, skin rashes, male sexual impotence and loss of libido in men and women.