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# Patient given Seroxat substitute felt unwell within two days

Sam Lister



Elspeth Lax

When Elspeth Lax, 52, collected a prescription for antidepressants, she found that rather than receiving her normal course of Seroxat, she was given generic pills containing the same active ingredient, paroxetine, and told they were similar to her usual medication, only cheaper.

Within two days of taking the drug, she started feeling unwell. "I felt sick and a rash came up on my arm," said Ms Lax. "I couldn't work out what was going on — I thought the chemist might have given me the wrong prescription."

She said her 85-year-old father immediately picked up on her mood changes. She contacted her GP in Maidenhead and Ms Lax, who runs a group supporting sufferers of pseudoxanthoma elasticum (PXE), a rare skin disorder, was told that she was having a slight reaction to the generic drugs. The doctor wrote a second prescription, insisting that she was given Seroxat.

"Once I was back on it, I had no further problems — straight away I was back to myself," said Ms Lax. "I have been very careful when picking up my prescriptions ever since."