

Glaxo faces U.S. class-action suit over anti depressant drug PAXIL

LONDON (Reuters) - GlaxoSmithKline faces an investor class-action lawsuit alleging it covered up problems with its antidepressant Paxil, to the detriment of some shareholders.

U.S. law firm of Schatz & Nobel said late on Wednesday that a suit seeking class-action status had been filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf people who bought GSK <GSK.L> securities between February 21, 2001 and August 5, 2004.

The suit charges that Europe's biggest drug maker "improperly concealed deficiencies" with Paxil in treating adolescent depression.

The move follows the discovery of a link between Paxil and suicidal tendencies in young people which led regulators around the world last year to limit use of GSK's drug and other similar medicines.

GSK, which is also facing several patient lawsuits over Paxil, has always defended the way in which it handled findings from clinical studies suggesting a link with adolescent suicide risk.

Paxil -- also known as Seroxat -- used to be GSK's biggest-selling product but its importance has diminished with the arrival of cheap generic versions of the medicine.