

# CLOMIPRAMINE

Other names: Apo-Clomipramine®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medicine?

Clomipramine belongs to a group of medicines called tricyclic antidepressants. They help to treat depression by increasing the body's natural substances in the brain (e.g. serotonin, noradrenaline).

Clomipramine can be used for a variety of conditions, such as:

- depression
- obsessive compulsive disorders
- panic attacks
- phobias
- chronic painful conditions
- muscle weakness attacks (cataplexy)

## When to take this medicine

Clomipramine can be taken on an empty stomach or with food. It should be taken regularly as your doctor directs.

**DO NOT STOP** taking it without your doctor's permission. It may take two to three weeks before your symptoms start to get better.

## If you miss a dose

Take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- fast pounding heartbeat
- chest pain
- skin rash, severe itching or hives, swelling of the face or hands, difficulty breathing
- change in how much or how often you urinate or painful or difficult urinating (peeing)
- ear pain or discharge or ringing in your ears

- confusion
- muscle weakness or pain, joint or back pain
- change of mood (e.g. agitation, anxiety, irritability)
- lightheadedness or dizziness when getting up suddenly from a lying or sitting position.
- numbness, tingling or burning pain in your hands, arms, legs or feet

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- dizziness or drowsiness.
- headache
- increased appetite
- dry eyes or change in vision
- decreased sexual activity
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets such as nausea and/or vomiting
- trouble sleeping and/or unusual dreams
- changes in taste

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

## Cautions

- Clomipramine can make your skin more sensitive to sunlight. Use a sunscreen when you are outside. Avoid sunlamps and tanning beds.
- Clomipramine can make you dizzy or drowsy. It is important to make sure you know how your body reacts before you drive a car, operate machinery or ride a bike.

## Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Other medicines taken with clomipramine can have an additive effect (e.g. increased drowsiness or can make you sleepy) such as:

- alcohol (avoid or reduce the amount you drink)
- sleeping tablets e.g. zopiclone, triazolam, temazepam
- opioid pain relievers e.g. morphine, codeine

## Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**