

Dothiepin

Other names: Dopress[®]



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?

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

Dothiepin can be used for the following conditions:

- to treat depression
- to control anxiety
- to help you sleep at night

When to take this medicine

Dothiepin can be taken with or without food. It is best to take the main dose at night as it may make you drowsy.

DO NOT STOP taking dothiepin without your doctor's permission. If you are taking this medicine for depression, it may take 3 weeks or longer before you start to feel 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:

- signs of an allergic reaction such as itchy skin rash, blisters or discolouration of the skin
- when exposed to sunlight
- seizures or fits
- severe dizziness, drowsiness or disorientation
- severe constipation
- unusual bruising or bleeding
- yellowing of the skin or eyes

- fast or irregular heart beat
- chest pain

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

- dry mouth
- difficulty urinating
- constipation
- nausea and/or vomiting
- dizziness, weakness or feeling faint
- feeling confused or disorientated
- blurred vision
- tremor

This medicine may make you drowsy, especially during the first few weeks you are taking it. Be careful when driving or operating machinery during this period. It is important to make sure you know how your body reacts before you drive a car, operate machinery or ride a bike.

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.

Other Medicines

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

When taking this medicine you may need to:

- avoid or reduce the amount of alcohol you drink
- be aware of the added effects (e.g. drowsiness, feeling sleepy) when taking other medicines, for example, cough and cold medicines, sleeping tablets, analgesics (pain killers) with codeine
- check with your doctor before taking other antidepressants, for example, a MAOI (monoamine oxidase inhibitor) such as phenelzine (Nardil); moclobemide, SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) such as fluoxetine, paroxetine or citalopram.

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