

AMITRIPTYLINE

Other names: Amtrip®, Amirol®



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

Amitriptyline works as an antidepressant, that is, it counteracts the symptoms of depression such as feeling sad, unhappy, loss, miserable or down in the dumps which interferes with everyday life for weeks or longer. Amitriptyline belongs to a group of medicines called tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs).

Amitriptyline can be used for a number of indications besides depression, for example:

- to control nerve pain
- to help one to sleep at night

When to take this medicine

Amitriptyline can be taken on an empty or full stomach. It should be taken regularly as your doctor directs. When taken for depression, it may take several weeks before you receive the full benefit.

DO NOT STOP taking it without your doctor's permission. Stopping this medicine abruptly may bring on the symptoms that you were intended to take it for in the first place. It is recommended to reduce the dose gradually before completely stopping this medicine.

If you miss a dose

Take as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for the 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 or irregular heartbeat
- fainting
- confusion, agitation or hallucinations
- skin rash or hives
- yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
- mood or thought changes

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

- dizziness or drowsiness
- dry mouth
- headache
- sensitivity to sunlight
- changes in vision, for example, trouble focusing or blurred vision
- trouble urinating
- gastro- intestinal upset, for example, constipation, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting
- decreased sexual activity
- weight changes (there can be a loss or gain in weight), increase in appetite

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

As amitriptyline can make some people feel drowsy or light-headed, it is important to make sure you know how your body reacts to amitriptyline before you drive a car, operate machinery or ride a bike.

As this medicine may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight, it is recommended to use a sunscreen (SPF 30+) when outdoors. Avoid sunlamps and tanning beds.

Other Medication

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.

Check with your doctor before taking this medicine with other antidepressants for example:

- monoamine-oxidase inhibitors (e.g. phenelzine)
- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs, e.g. citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine)

Take alcohol in moderation, as it can increase the effects of amitriptyline.

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.