

About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed doxepin for you.

What is doxepin used for?

Doxepin has marked antihistamine activity. It is thus useful in relieving itch arising from various skin conditions.

The main use of this medicine, however, is to treat mental or mood problems such as depression and anxiety. It belongs to a group of medicines called tricyclic anti-depressants.

How should I take doxepin?

Take this medicine with or after food.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose.

Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.

What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

- Drowsiness. *Do not drive or operate machinery if affected.*

- Dizziness or lightheadedness. *This may occur, especially when you get up from a lying or sitting position. Getting up slowly may help. If this problem continues or gets worse, check with your doctor.*
- Dry mouth. *For temporary relief, drink fluids or suck sweets. However, if your mouth continues to feel dry for more than 2 weeks, check with your doctor. Continuing dryness of the mouth may increase the chance of dental disease, including tooth decay, gum disease, and fungal infections.*
- Changes in appetite, changes in taste
- Constipation or diarrhoea
- Mild tremor
- Nausea, vomiting

Consult your doctor as soon as possible if any of the following side effects occur:

- Allergic reaction (difficulty breathing, severe dizziness, rash, itching, swelling)
- A fast or irregular heartbeat
- Blurred vision
- Difficulty urinating
- Enlarged/painful breasts
- Fever
- Fits
- Muscle weakness or spasms
- Mood changes
- Numbness/tingling of the hands/feet
- Ringing in the ears

What precautions should I take?

- *Inform your doctor if you have thyroid, heart, liver, or kidney disease; an enlarged prostate or difficulty urinating; fits; diabetes; glaucoma; asthma; personal or family history of mental/mood conditions.*
- *For women: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.*
- Avoid drinking alcohol. Alcohol may increase drowsiness or dizziness while taking doxepin.
- Inform your doctor if you are taking any other medications, in particular, carbamazepine, cimetidine, fluoxetine, phenobarbital, selegiline, sibutramine and tramadol.
- Doxepin may make your skin more sensitive to sunlight. Avoid prolonged exposure, wear protective clothing or use sunscreen if necessary.
- Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children.
- Do not keep this medicine with other medications in the same container. Keep each medicine separately in labeled containers.

DOXEPIN

When in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist:
National Skin Centre
1 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308205.
Tel: 63508454

