

What is this medicine for?

This medicine belongs to a group known as tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs).

It is used to treat symptoms of low mood such as sad feelings, feelings of hopelessness or worthlessness, feeling bad about yourself, suicidal thoughts, poor sleep, energy or appetite.

It may also be used to treat symptoms of anxiety such as racing heartbeat, tremors, sweating, and nervousness as well as in obsessive-compulsive disorders.

This medicine may also be used for other conditions as determined by your doctor.

Before using this medicine:

Tell the doctor if you have or had drug allergies; alcohol abuse; seizures (fits); difficulty in urination; enlarged prostate; glaucoma (increased eye pressure); heart, liver, or kidney disease, or hyperthyroid.

FOR WOMEN: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How to use this medicine?

Follow the directions on the medicine label and take this medicine exactly as directed. Do not take more, or less, or more often than prescribed by the doctor.

This medicine must be taken regularly for a few weeks before your symptoms of low mood or anxiety gradually improve.

Once these symptoms are under control, you should continue taking this medication regularly to prevent the return of your depressive or anxiety symptoms. Do check with your doctor on the appropriate length of treatment you need.

Precautions while taking this medicine:

- This medicine may impair your ability to perform skilled tasks such as driving and operating machinery.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medicine. Drinking alcohol can worsen symptoms of depression.
- Your mental condition may change in unexpected ways especially at the beginning (first few weeks) of treatment and during dose changes. Contact your doctor immediately if you or your child (the patient) experience new or worsening thoughts of harming yourself, increase in symptoms such as anxiety, restlessness, violent behaviour, or other changes in mood and behaviour. Be sure that your family or caregiver knows which symptoms may be serious so they can call the doctor if you are unable to seek treatment on your own.
- If you take this medicine with other medicines, it may affect how they work. Be sure to tell the doctors, pharmacists, dentists and other healthcare providers who are treating you about all the medicines and natural remedies that you are taking.

What should I do if I forget to take a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is more than half way between the doses, skip the missed dose and take the medicine at the usual time.

Do not take two doses at the same time to make up for a missed one.

Possible Side Effects

Like all medications, this medication may also cause some POSSIBLE side effects in some people. Everyone responds differently to medications; so not everyone experiences any or all of them.

COMMON (Generally affect up to 10% of patients)

Most of these side effects below will get better or go away completely with continued medication taking as your body gets used to this medication. Contact your doctor or pharmacist should they become too bothersome to you.

- ~ Dizziness (get up slowly from sitting or lying down position may help)
- ~ Drowsiness
- ~ Headache
- ~ Tiredness or weakness
- ~ Dryness of mouth (take sips of water, melt ice chips in your mouth, or take sugarless candy)
- ~ Nausea (may be reduced by taking with a meal or snack)
- ~ Weight gain (healthy diet and regular exercise)
- ~ Decreased sexual activity
- ~ Constipation
- ~ Increased sensitivity to sunlight (stay out of direct sunlight especially between 10am – 3pm, wear protective clothing, or apply a sunblock)

FOR URGENT ATTENTION

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following:

- ~ Allergic reaction: Skin rash or itching, swelling in the face or hands, chest tightness, or difficulty breathing
- ~ Fast or irregular heartbeat
- ~ Confusion
- ~ Hallucinations
- ~ Seizures (fits)
- ~ Mask-like face
- ~ Stiffness of arms and legs
- ~ Problems in urinating
- ~ Blurred vision
- ~ Yellow eyes or skin

If you have any concerns about your medications or if you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, please consult with your doctor or pharmacist.

Where should I store the medicine?

Store this medicine at room temperature, away from direct light, heat and moisture (not in the bathroom) and out of reach of children.

Throw away any medication that is expired or no longer needed.

Do not share the medicine with other people.

Ask the doctor or pharmacist for more information or if you have any questions.

Institute of Mental Health

Pharmacy Department

10 Buangkok View
Singapore 539747

For medication enquiries: (during office hours)

IMH Clinic B/ Sayang Wellness Pharmacy: 63892077

IMH Clinic C (NAMS) Pharmacy: 63893666

Community Wellness Centre Pharmacy: 64715797

Geylang Behavioural Medicine Pharmacy: 67461724

Child Guidance Clinic (HPB) Pharmacy: 64353807

Child Guidance (Sunrise Wing) Pharmacy: 63892410

Email: enquiry@imh.com.sg



Patient Information Leaflet on

AMITRIPTYLINE

CLOMIPRAMINE

DOTHIEPIN

IMIPRAMINE

