

AMITRIPTYLINE



Other names

None

Drug category

Tricyclic antidepressant

Uses

Amitriptyline is used for migraine, other chronic headaches, neuropathic (nerve-related) pain and depression. It may help for insomnia too, but should not be used just for this reason.

Available forms

Liquid, tablet

Some potential side-effects (inform your doctor if you think you have a serious side-effect)

Drowsiness, dry mouth, constipation, weight gain, difficulty passing urine, nausea

Not to be used if:

- Irregular heart rhythm or recent heart attack or heart disease
- Mania or bipolar disorder
- Severe liver disease
- Epilepsy (can increase risk of seizures)
- Possibility of overdosing (could lead to coma or seizures)

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Avoid during pregnancy (risk not clear). It is thought to be safe during breastfeeding.

Interactions with other drugs

May increase the risk of low blood pressure or dry mouth or other effects with some drugs. Not to be used with monoamine oxidase inhibitors

Monitoring

Blood tests for full blood count, liver function, sodium and kidney function may be useful

How to use it

Day	Evening dose if <65 years	Evening dose if over 65 years
Start date	10mg	10mg
2 weeks later	25mg	20mg
4 weeks later	50mg	30mg
6 weeks later	75mg	40mg
After 6 weeks	Continue same dose	Continue same dose

If this dose does not help and you have no side-effects, then it can be increased to a higher dose but the maximum dose should be 100mg per day. Side-effects are more likely in people over 65 years old, particularly confusion or drowsiness. If stopping it, then reduce the dose gradually over 4 weeks to avoid withdrawal effects. Nortriptyline is a less sedating variant of amitriptyline.

This information is for guidance only. Always read the medicine information leaflet with any new medicine for full details.