

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center

Medication Information Sheet for Tricyclic antidepressants

Brand Names: Elavil, Endep, Pamelor, Norpramin, Tofranil, Sinequan

Generic Names: Amitriptyline, Nortriptyline, Desipramine, Imipramine, Doxepin

Drug Class: Tricyclic antidepressants

What do these medications do?

These related medications have become an important therapy for the treatment of dyspepsia (indigestion), chest pain due to dyspepsia, and functional bowel disorders (irritable bowel syndrome or IBS). Their action on the nervous system of the intestines helps reduce symptoms of pain and cramping. These medications are used at much higher dose to treat depression. Doses required to treat GI symptoms are not beneficial for depression. These medications usually take 2-3 weeks to produce a benefit.

Possible Side Effects:

These medications are well tolerated by most people. If you have problems with less serious side effects, please talk with your doctor. Many of these side effects lessen and/or disappear in a short period of time.

- Drowsiness or dizziness
- Dry mouth
- Nausea
- Changes in weight
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Trouble urinating
- Blurred vision

Call your doctor *immediately* if you have any of these side effects:

- Fast or irregular heart beat
- Fainting
- Confusion
- Skin rash

Dosage and Administration:

- Medication name _____ Dosage _____
- This medication may be taken with food or on an empty stomach
- If you miss a dose, wait and take your next regular dose
- For most people, it is best to take these medications before bedtime