

Medication Information Card

Tricyclic Antidepressants

Other names for this medication

Amitriptyline	Amoxapine	Clomipramine
Desipramine	Doxepin	Imipramine
Loxapine	Nortriptyline	Trimipramine

How this medication is used

This medication improves mood and treats depression. It helps balance chemicals in the brain. It may take up to 4 weeks before you get the full effect of this medication.

This medication may also be used for some types of pain, to prevent migraine headaches and to improve sleep.

Imipramine may be used to treat bedwetting.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. If you take this medication once a day, take it at bedtime.

Do not stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor first.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule.

How to take this medication (continued)

Do not take 2 doses at one time. If a once daily bedtime dose is missed, do not take it in the morning since it may cause drowsiness.

This medication increases the effects of alcohol, making you more sleepy, dizzy and lightheaded. Do not drink alcohol such as wine, beer or liquor while taking this medication.

This medication can make you feel drowsy. Until you know how this medication makes you feel, do not drive or operate machinery.

While taking this medication you may notice

- dry mouth
- trouble sleeping
- weight gain
- dizziness
- you feel more tired or weak
- blurred vision for up to 1 week
- constipation
- increased appetite
- drowsiness

Most of these effects will go away as your body gets used to the medication.

To help dry mouth, try sucking sugar-free candy or chewing sugar-free gum. Sucking on ice chips also helps if you are not on a limited fluid diet. Good care of your teeth is very important at this time.

To avoid feeling dizzy, get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

To prevent constipation, eat food high in fibre, drink 6 to 8 glasses of liquid each day and exercise regularly. Food high in fibre includes whole grain products, vegetables and fruit.

To avoid weight gain, follow a healthy diet and exercise plan. Talk to your doctor or dietitian for help.

Contact your doctor if you notice

- blurred vision for more than 1 week
- problems passing urine
- severe constipation
- you are less interested or able to have sex
- your heartbeat is not regular
- continued restlessness
- muscle tremor
- continued muscle stiffness
- signs of infection such as sore throat, fever, chills