



Central Manchester  
Clinical Commissioning Group

# Amitriptyline

## Patient Information Leaflet

### Patient information

The information in this leaflet is to guide your use of amitriptyline safely. Further information is available inside the medication package.

Your doctor, nurse or community pharmacist will explain the reason why you are taking your medicine and what to expect. Please ask them if you are not sure about the drug and how to best use it.

### What is amitriptyline for?

Amitriptyline is a medicine which may help improve your pain control. It can be helpful for nerve pain, for example shooting, stabbing or burning pains.

Amitriptyline is also used to treat depression, but you have been prescribed it to improve pain control. You may find the medication leaflet supplied with your amitriptyline only gives information for the use of this drug in depression.

### How should I take amitriptyline?

- The starting dose for amitriptyline for pain is 10mg once a day. The dose is usually taken 1 or 2 hours before normal sleep time.

#### **Take the dose regularly every day.**

It may be 2 weeks before you start to see a real benefit. Your dose of amitriptyline may be slowly increased to between 50mg and 75mg a day depending on how helpful it is for your pain relief. Your doctor will advise how to do this (see table below).

***Swallow the tablets with a drink of water***

Week	Dose (once a day)
Week 1	10mg
Week 2	20mg
Week 3	30mg
Week 4	40mg
Review of treatment with doctor	

Make sure you have enough medication especially coming up to weekends or holidays

### Are there any side effects?

All medicines can sometimes cause side effects. If you are worried, you can talk to your doctor, nurse or community pharmacist.

The most common side effects of this drug are drowsiness, dry mouth, constipation, feel lightheaded or dizziness. Some people also develop blurred vision or problems passing urine.

**Most** of these side effects will improve after several days, so it is worth carrying on with the amitriptyline.

### How to manage side effects

- Dry mouth- Drink more non-alcoholic drinks such as water, chewing also increases saliva in the mouth.
- Constipation- Drink more non-alcoholic drinks, eat plenty of fibre containing foods and fruit and vegetables.
- Please see your community pharmacist or GP if problems continue.

A common side effect of this drug is drowsiness. If you are drowsy you must not drive or operate machinery.

***Drinking alcohol may make you more drowsy.*** Restrict your alcohol intake to 1-2 units per day (1unit= ½ pint beer or lager a small glass of wine or a measure of spirit). You may wish to discuss this with a healthcare professional.

### How long will I take amitriptyline for?

You will probably need to take this medicine for as long as you have the pain

Other treatments or pain killers may also help your pain and the dose of amitriptyline may need to be reduced.

**Please do not stop Amitriptyline suddenly.** It needs to be reduced gradually **in the same way you have increased it.** Please discuss with your doctor before stopping.

### What if I am prescribed other medicines?

Some other medicines can affect the way amitriptyline works so always tell your doctor you are taking amitriptyline if they want to prescribe you anything new.

### Storage instructions

As with all medicines, keep them in a safe place away from children.

### Should you wish to ask any further questions about your medication please do not hesitate to ask the Doctor, Nurse or Community Pharmacist

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