

Please Note

Because of the possibility of sedation with Amitriptyline you should not drive or operate machinery until you can reassure yourself that it does not make you drowsy.

If you think you may have a side effect of Amitriptyline treatment, **stop the tablets and ask your doctor or nurse for advice.**

Contact details

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This leaflet can be made available in alternative languages/formats on request

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Amitriptyline

Patient Information Leaflet

**St Helens Hospital
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St Helens, WA9 3DA**

What is Amitriptyline?

A very detailed description of this drug can be found in the drug leaflet that comes with the medication.

You should read that leaflet before taking the medicine. If there is anything you don't understand - discuss it with your doctor.

You have been started on a tablet called AMITRIPTYLINE. Amitriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant.

As well as depression, Amitriptyline is used to treat pain caused by nerve irritation as a result of diabetes. It is not being used to treat depression here.

How much should I take?

The dose of Amitriptyline varies from 10 mg daily to 150 mg daily. We usually start with 25 mg (10 mg in the very elderly) at night, increasing over 4-8 weeks to 75 mg at night. Only if there has been no benefit with this dose after 2-3 months is the dose increased further.

When should I take it?

Amitriptyline is taken at night because it reduces the likelihood of side effects (see overleaf). You should have been given clear information about your dose – if you weren't, then please ASK.

Is it safe for me to take?

Amitriptyline should not be used immediately after heart attack or in those with severe liver disease.

It should only be used with caution with the following conditions, and your doctor should discuss this with you:

- Pregnancy
- Breast feeding
- Heart disease (especially arrhythmias)
- Epilepsy
- Over-active thyroid
- Pheochromocytoma
- Mania
- Psychosis
- Glaucoma
- Urinary retention
- Severe prostate problems.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects of Amitriptyline are common. It may cause:

- dry mouth, sedation, blurred vision,
- constipation, nausea, fainting
- difficulty passing urine, sweating
- tremor, rashes and allergic reactions.
- It may also cause behavioural problems, increased appetite, weight gain, and a variety of rarer blood and hormone disorders.