Amitriptyline History and Information

Amitriptyline blocks the neurotransmitter acetylcholine in the central and peripheral nervous system, and it's this action that contributes to the numerous side effects, including weight gain, changes in appetite, nausea, constipation, nervousness, muscle stiffness, blurred vision and urinary retention. Amitriptyline should not be abruptly or rapidly discontinued due to the potential of severe Amitriptyline withdrawal symptoms. It is recommended to do a slow Amitriptyline taper to minimize withdrawal symptoms.

Amitriptyline (Elavil) is the most widely used Tricyclic Antidepressant prescribed to treat depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, insomnia, neuropathic pain and migraines.

Amitriptyline is often used off-label for migraine prevention, yet a study in San Diego showed melatonin was more effective for migraine prevention than Amitriptyline.

Amitriptyline was developed by Merck and initially synthesized in 1960 and approved by the FDA in 1961. Amitriptyline is on the World Health Organization's (WHO) list of most important medications needed in a basic health system.

Amitriptyline also exerts minimal action on Serotonin but significantly on Norepinephrine and these two neurotransmitters also affect the adrenal 'flight-or-fight' system, dream sleep, mood, memory and cardiovascular function.

Amitriptyline side effects may include seizures, urinary retention and a number of heart issues. In the United States and Australia, Amitriptyline is listed as a pregnancy category C drug, meaning it may cause problems during pregnancy. Amitriptyline is known to interact with MAO Inhibitors and SSRIs, risking Serotonin Syndrome.

In June 2011, researchers at the University of East Anglia, Norich, United Kingdom, investigated the anticholinergic burden (ACB) meaning the blocking of acetylcholine, and listed the results. They found that Amtriptyline rated a three, meaning severe due to the reduction in cognitive abilities, adverse side effects and increase in mortality risk.

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(FDA). The products and labels mentioned / sold are not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease or illness.

*Because prescription medications can cause severe withdrawal reactions, do not stop taking any medication without first consulting your physician. The decision to taper any medication should be discussed with your doctor and done with their consent and support.