Clomipramine History

Clomipramine (Anafranil) is a tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) that was developed in the early 1960s by the Swiss pharmaceutical company Geigy, known today as Novartis. Clomipramine is a derivative of Imipramine, an earlier generation tricyclic.

Clomipramine has significant side effects and can be especially dangerous in overdose. Tricyclics seem to block the reabsorption of Serotonin and Epinephrine back into nerve cells after the neurotransmitters are released into the synapse (a structure that permits the nerve cell to pass an electrical signal). This forces both Serotonin and Epinephrine levels higher in the brain, but prevents these critical neurotransmitters from recirculating throughout the body. Both Serotonin and Epinephrine are essential for gastrointestinal health, blood platelets, the central nervous system, cardiovascular region, respiratory system, liver, and adrenal glands. This may explain why the side effects and withdrawal symptoms of Clomipramine are so widespread.

Clomipramine is distributed in breast milk and nursing is not recommended while taking Clomipramine due to the congenital defect risk to the newborn.

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*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.