cyclobenzaprine, Flexeril, Amrix

**SURPRISING REASONS YOU'RE IN PAIN SLIDESHOW PICTURES**

**TAKE THE PAIN QUIZ!**

**CHRONIC PAIN SLIDESHOW: CAUSES, SOLUTIONS AND MANAGEMENT**

**SHARE THIS ARTICLE:**

FACEBOOK  TWITTER  EMAIL  PRINT

**GENERIC NAME:** cyclobenzaprine

**BRAND NAME:** Flexeril, Amrix

**DRUG CLASS AND MECHANISM:** Cyclobenzaprine is a muscle relaxant. Specifically, cyclobenzaprine relieves muscle spasm when the spasm is due to local problems, that is, in the muscle itself and not in the nerves controlling the muscles. Cyclobenzaprine has no effect on muscle function. Cyclobenzaprine seems to accomplish its beneficial effect through a complex mechanism within the nervous system, probably in the brainstem. The FDA approved cyclobenzaprine in August 1977.

**PRESCRIPTION:** Yes

**GENERIC AVAILABLE:** Yes

**PREPARATIONS:** Tablets: 5 and 10 mg. Capsules (Extended Release): 15 and 30 mg.

**STORAGE:** Tablets should be stored between 15-30 C (59-86 F).

**PRESCRIBED FOR:** Cyclobenzaprine is used with rest and physical therapy for short-term relief of muscle spasms associated with acute painful muscle and skeletal conditions. It is only for short-term use, up to two or three weeks.

**DOsing:** The recommended dose of cyclobenzaprine dose is 5 or 10 mg three times daily using immediate release tablets or 15 or 30 mg once daily using extended release tablets.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** Cyclobenzaprine is chemically related to the tricyclic class of antidepressants (for example, amitriptyline [Elavil, Endep], nortriptyline [Pamelor]). As such, it should not be taken with or within two weeks of any monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor, for example,
isocarboxazid (Marplan), phenelzine (Nardil), tranylcypromine (Parnate), and procarbazine (Matulane). High fever, convulsions, and even death can occur when these drugs are used together. Additionally, cyclobenzaprine interacts with other medications and drugs that slow the brain’s processes, such as alcohol, barbiturates, benzodiazepines (for example, diazepam [Valium], lorazepam [Ativan]), and narcotics.

PREGNANCY: There are no adequate studies of cyclobenzaprine in pregnant women. However, studies in animals suggest no important effects on the fetus. Cyclobenzaprine therefore can be used in pregnancy if the physician feels that it is necessary.

NURSING MOTHERS: It is not known whether cyclobenzaprine is secreted in milk. However, since it is related to the tricyclic antidepressants, some of which are excreted in breast milk, caution is advised in using this medication in women who are breastfeeding.

SIDE EFFECTS: Common side effects of cyclobenzaprine include drowsiness, dry mouth, fatigue, headaches, and dizziness. Other reported side effects include nausea, constipation, blurred vision, unpleasant taste, nervousness, confusion, acid reflux, and abdominal pain or discomfort. Abrupt cessation after prolonged therapy may cause withdrawal symptoms such as headaches, nausea, and weakness.

Reference: FDA Prescribing Information

Last Editorial Review: 7/28/2010

Report Problems to the Food and Drug Administration

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit the FDA MedWatch website or call 1-800-FDA-1088.
Lower Back Pain

- There are many causes of back pain. Pain in the low back can relate to the bony lumbar spine, discs between the vertebrae, ligaments around the spine and

Muscle Spasms

- Muscle spasms are involuntary muscle contractions that come on suddenly and are usually quite painful. Dehydration, doing strenuous exercise in a hot environment,

Ankle Pain

- Ankle pain is commonly due to a sprain or tendinitis. The severity of ankle sprains ranges from mild (which can resolve within 24 hours) to severe (which

Fibromyalgia

Medications 2 articles

Procedures & Tests 0 articles

Pictures, Images & Quizzes 1 articles

Doctor's & Expert's Views 8 articles

Health News 1 articles

Health Features 1 articles

Chronic Pain/Back Pain

Find tips and advances in treatment.

I have read and agree to WebMD's Privacy Policy

Enter email address  Submit

See All Slideshows

Depression

Physical Symptoms of Depression

Health Solutions From Our Sponsors

Testosterone Treatment What are Probiotics? Learn About Triglycerides Diabetes Help Center Low Testosterone?
High Triglycerides? Low T Medication Erectile Dysfunction? Testosterone Checkup Manage Triglycerides

Health Categories:

- Slideshow Pictures
- Diseases & Conditions
- Symptoms & Signs
- Procedures & Tests
- Medications
- Healthy Living
- Vitamins & Supplements
- Image Collection
- Quizzes
- MedTerms Dictionary
- Pet Health

Popular Health Centers:

- Allergies
- Arthritis
- Blood Pressure
- Cancer
- Chronic Pain
- Cold & Flu
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Digestion
- Health & Living
- Healthy Kids
- Hearing & Ear
- Heart
- HIV/AIDS
- Infectious Disease
- Men's Health
- Mental Health
- Neurology
- Pregnancy
- Sexual Health
- Skin
- Thyroid
- Women's Health
- More...

MedicineNet:

- Privacy Policy
- Contact Us
- Site Map
- WebMD Corporate
- WebMD
- Medscape
- Medscape Reference
eMedicineHealth
RxList
OnHealth
Boots/WebMD
Medscape France
Medscape Germany

Follow Us On:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Google+
- RSS

Ad Choices