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How to Fight It



Elavil

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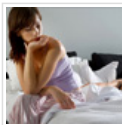
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Elavil

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Please Note: This Brand Name drug is no longer available in the US.
(Generic versions may still be available.)

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Elavil Side Effects Center

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Last reviewed on RxList 4/17/2015

Elavil (amitriptyline) is a tricyclic antidepressant used to treat depression and mood disorders. It may also be used to treat other conditions including nerve pain, eating disorder, anxiety, and panic disorder. It is available in generic form. The most common side effects of Elavil are drowsiness, dry mouth, dizziness, blurred vision, constipation, weight gain, or trouble urinating.

Elavil is taken by mouth in tablet form. The medication may take up to four weeks to take full effect. You should not use Elavil if you are taking drugs of the MAOI class or have taken these medications in the past 14 days. This is

Prescribing Information

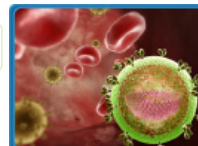
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not a complete list of potential drug interactions with Elavil, and other medications may interact with this drug. Elavil has been shown to cause harm to the developing fetus. You should discuss with your doctor the risk and benefits of using Elavil during pregnancy. Women using Elavil should not breastfeed since Elavil is excreted in breast milk.

Our Elavil Side Effects Drug Center provides a comprehensive view of available drug information on the potential side effects when taking this medication.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Elavil Overview - Patient Information: Side Effects

SIDE EFFECTS: See also Warning section. Drowsiness, dizziness, dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, weight gain, or trouble urinating may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly.

To reduce the risk of dizziness and lightheadedness, get up slowly when rising from a sitting or lying position.

To relieve dry mouth, suck on (sugarless) hard candy or ice chips, chew (sugarless) gum, drink water, or use a saliva substitute.

To prevent constipation, maintain a diet adequate in fiber, drink plenty of water, and exercise. If you become constipated while using this drug, consult your pharmacist for help in selecting a laxative.

Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but serious side effects occur: easy bruising/bleeding, persistent heartburn, shaking, mask-like facial expressions, muscle spasms, severe stomach/abdominal pain, decreased sexual ability/desire, enlarged/painful breasts.

Get medical help right away if you have any very serious side effects, including: black stools, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, severe dizziness, fainting, seizures, eye pain/swelling/redness, vision changes (such as seeing rainbows around lights at night).

This medication may rarely cause a very serious condition called neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS). Get medical help right away if you have any of the following symptoms: fever, muscle stiffness, severe confusion, sweating, fast/irregular heartbeat.

A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, seek immediate medical attention if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), severe dizziness, trouble breathing.

This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

In the US -

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

In Canada - Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to Health Canada at 1-866-234-2345.

[Read the entire patient information overview for Elavil \(Amitriptyline\)](#)

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Elavil FDA Prescribing Information: Side Effects (Adverse Reactions)

SIDE EFFECTS

Within each category the following adverse reactions are listed in order of



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decreasing severity. Included in the listing are a few adverse reactions which have not been reported with this specific drug. However, pharmacological similarities among the [tricyclic antidepressant](#) drugs require that each of the reactions be considered when [amitriptyline](#) is administered.

Cardiovascular: [Myocardial infarction](#); [stroke](#); nonspecific [ECG](#) changes and changes in AV conduction; [heart block](#); arrhythmias; [hypotension](#), particularly [orthostatic hypotension](#); [syncope](#); [hypertension](#); [tachycardia](#); palpitation.

CNS and Neuromuscular: [Coma](#); seizures; hallucinations; delusions; confusional states; disorientation; incoordination; [ataxia](#); tremors; [peripheral neuropathy](#); numbness, tingling, and paresthesias of the extremities; extrapyramidal symptoms including [abnormal involuntary](#) movements and [tardive dyskinesia](#); [dysarthria](#); disturbed concentration; excitement; [anxiety](#); [insomnia](#); restlessness; nightmares; drowsiness; dizziness; weakness; [fatigue](#); headache; [syndrome](#) of inappropriate [ADH \(antidiuretic hormone\)](#) secretion; [tinnitus](#); alteration in [EEG](#) patterns.

Anticholinergic: [Paralytic ileus](#); hyperpyrexia; [urinary](#) retention; [dilatation](#) of the [urinary tract](#); constipation; [blurred vision](#), disturbance of [accommodation](#), increased [ocular](#) pressure, [mydriasis](#); [dry mouth](#).

Allergic: [Skin rash](#); [urticaria](#); photosensitization; [edema](#) of face and [tongue](#).

Hematologic: [Bone marrow depression](#) including [agranulocytosis](#), [leukopenia](#), thrombocytopenia; [purpura](#); [eosinophilia](#).

Gastrointestinal: Rarely [hepatitis](#) (including altered [liver](#) function and [jaundice](#)); [nausea](#); epigastric distress; vomiting; [anorexia](#); stomatitis; peculiar [taste](#); [diarrhea](#); parotid swelling; black tongue.

Endocrine: Testicular swelling and [gynecomastia](#) in the male; [breast](#) enlargement and [galactorrhea](#) in the female; increased or decreased [libido](#); [impotence](#); elevation and lowering of [blood sugar](#) levels.

Other: [Alopecia](#); edema; weight gain or loss; urinary frequency; increased [perspiration](#).

Withdrawal Symptoms: After prolonged administration, abrupt cessation of treatment may produce nausea, headache, and [malaise](#). Gradual dosage reduction has been reported to produce, within two weeks, transient symptoms including irritability, restlessness, and dream and [sleep](#) disturbance.

These symptoms are not indicative of [addiction](#). Rare instances have been reported of [mania](#) or [hypomania](#) occurring within 2-7 days following cessation of [chronic therapy](#) with tricyclic antidepressants.

Causal Relationship Unknown: Other reactions, reported under circumstances where a causal relationship could not be established, are listed to serve as alerting information to physicians:

Body as a Whole: Lupus-like syndrome (migratory [arthritis](#), positive ANA and [rheumatoid factor](#)).

Digestive: [Hepatic](#) failure, [ageusia](#).

[Read the entire FDA prescribing information for \[Elavil \\(Amitriptyline\\)\]\(#\)](#)

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Additional Elavil Information

- Elavil Drug Interactions Center: [amitriptyline oral](#)
- [Elavil Side Effects Center](#)
- [Elavil Overview including Precautions](#)
- [Elavil FDA Approved Prescribing Information including Dosage](#)

Elavil - User Reviews

Elavil User Reviews

Now you can gain knowledge and insight about a drug treatment with Patient Discussions.

Here is a collection of user reviews for the medication Elavil sorted by most helpful. ?

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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.

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