

PATIENT'S NAME:

MEDICATION: amitriptyline hydrochloride (Brand names include Apo-Amitriptyline, Elavil, Endep, Levate, and Novotriptyn.)

WHAT IT'S USED FOR: Amitriptyline is used to treat depression.

HOW TO TAKE IT

- Take drug exactly as prescribed. Be aware that its full benefits may not occur until you've taken it for 4 to 6 weeks.
- Take the full dose at bedtime to help prevent a sudden drop in blood pressure.

WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS!

- Stop taking this drug and get emergency medical attention if you experience a seizure, difficulty breathing, chest pain, fever, sweating, loss of bladder control, severe muscle stiffness, or unusual tiredness or weakness.
- Contact your prescriber immediately if you experience increased depression or suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Review all side effects listed below. Report troublesome ones to prescriber.
- Don't stop taking drug abruptly; it must be tapered gradually.
- Follow prescriber's directions about follow-up blood tests while taking this drug.
- Avoid driving and other hazardous activities until you know how the drug affects your concentration, alertness, motor function, and vision.
- Tell your prescriber if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

SIDE EFFECTS

This drug may cause seizures, coma, agitation, restlessness, panic, anxiety, agitation, dizziness, drowsiness, difficulty speaking, abnormal walking, excitement, increased psychosis symptoms, fatigue, hallucinations, headache, poor coordination, involuntary muscle movements, insomnia, nightmares, numbness, nerve damage in limbs, prickling or burning sensation, weakness, serious irregular or rapid heart beat, high blood pressure, sudden drop in blood pressure when you stand up, heart attack or other serious heart problems, dry eyes, vision disturbances, increased pressure in eyes, ringing in ears, anemia, bleeding disorders, nausea, vomiting, anorexia, stomach pain, dry mouth, bowel paralysis, urinary retention, delayed urination, urinary tract swelling, blood sugar changes, excessive appetite, enlarged breasts, increased sensitivity to sun or sun lamps, rash, itching, sweating, weight gain, fever, flushing, swelling, and allergic reactions.

INTERACTIONS

- Amitriptyline may cause serious interactions with many drugs and some herbs. Before starting this drug, tell your prescriber the names of all prescription and over-the-counter drugs and herbs you're taking.
- Avoid alcohol use and smoking while taking this drug.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight and sun lamps.

ADDITIONAL POINTS:

Your initials: _____

Date: _____