Antidepressants – Tricyclic and tetracyclic

Specific medications:
- Amitriptyline (Elavil)
- Mirtazapine (Remeron)
- Clomipramine (Anafranil)
- Nortriptyline (Norpramin)
- Doxepin (Sinequan)
- Trimipramine (Surmontil)
- Imipramine (Tofranil)

Use:
- Treat symptoms of depression
- Treat obsessive-compulsive symptoms
- Treat panic disorder and anxiety
- Treatment of migraine and bed-wetting.

Risks and side effects:
- Sedation, fatigue, drowsiness, dizziness when standing
- Upset stomach, heartburn, constipation
- Dry mouth and eyes
- Sexual side effects, problems with erection or climax
- Increased risk of suicidal thoughts and suicide, especially in children and adolescents
- Increased appetite and weight gain
- Tremor or jittery feeling
- Difficulty urinating
- Increased risk of seizures
- Liver damage
- May precipitate glaucoma
- Irregular heart beat and arrhythmia
- May kindle manic or psychotic symptoms in rare instances

Though most medication side effects are not dangerous, they can rarely be medically serious or even life threatening. Let your doctor know if you notice any changes in your health.

**Expected onset of action:** Many people feel calmer or sleepy within 30 minutes to an hour after taking the medication. Because of this, you should not take the medication before you drive or do other activities that require you to be alert in order to be safe. It usually takes 2-3 weeks before the medication begins to decrease depressive symptoms. It may take up to 8 weeks to see the full effect of the medication.

**Use in pregnancy:** Although birth defects have not been reported, the full effect of these medications on developing babies is not known. It is safest to use birth control while taking these medications. Let your doctor know if you may be or wish to become pregnant.

**Interactions with other drugs and food:** Street drugs and alcohol should be avoided while taking these medications.

**Laboratory monitoring:** Laboratory monitoring is generally not necessary. Your doctor may recommend you get an EKG or have an eye exam while taking these medications.

**Discontinuation effects:** If these medications are stopped suddenly, you may experience anxiety, depressed mood or mood swings, restlessness, insomnia, or stomach cramps and other GI symptoms. This can be avoided by tapering the medication slowly.

I acknowledge that I have discussed this information with my doctor and have received a copy of this form for my records.

Individual Served: __________________________ Date: ______________

Physician: __________________________ Date: ______________

[ ] Copy given for guardian