

drowsiness · dry mouth · hyperglycaemia · hyperhidrosis · hypotension · jaundice cholestatic · mood altered · paranoid delusions · peripheral neuropathy · rash · respiratory depression · seizure · sexual dysfunction · suicidal tendencies · tremor · urinary hesitation · withdrawal syndrome

**SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION** The risk of side-effects is reduced by titrating slowly to the minimum effective dose (every 2–3 days). Consider using a lower starting dose in elderly patients.

**Overdose** Tricyclic and related antidepressants cause dry mouth, coma of varying degree, hypotension, hypothermia, hyperreflexia, extensor plantar responses, convulsions, respiratory failure, cardiac conduction defects, and arrhythmias. Dilated pupils and urinary retention also occur. For details on the management of poisoning see Tricyclic and related antidepressants under Emergency treatment of poisoning p. 1430.

- **PREGNANCY** Use only if potential benefit outweighs risk.
- **BREAST FEEDING** The amount secreted into breast milk is too small to be harmful.
- **HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT** Manufacturer advises avoid in severe impairment.
- **TREATMENT CESSATION** Withdrawal effects may occur within 5 days of stopping treatment with antidepressant drugs; they are usually mild and self-limiting, but in some cases may be severe. The risk of withdrawal symptoms is increased if the antidepressant is stopped suddenly after regular administration for 8 weeks or more. The dose should preferably be reduced gradually over about 4 weeks, or longer if withdrawal symptoms emerge (6 months in patients who have been on long-term maintenance treatment). If possible tricyclic and related antidepressants should be withdrawn slowly.
- **PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING INFORMATION** Limited quantities of tricyclic antidepressants should be prescribed at any one time because their cardiovascular and epileptogenic effects are dangerous in overdosage.
- **PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE**  
**Driving and skilled tasks** Drowsiness may affect the performance of skilled tasks (e.g. driving).  
 Effects of alcohol enhanced.
- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: oral suspension, oral solution

#### Tablet

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 2

##### ▶ Trimipramine (Non-proprietary)

**Trimipramine (as Trimipramine maleate) 10 mg** Trimipramine 10mg tablets | 28 tablet [POM](#) | £197.18 DT = £179.18

**Trimipramine (as Trimipramine maleate) 25 mg** Trimipramine 25mg tablets | 28 tablet [POM](#) | £205.44 DT = £200.50

#### Capsule

CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 2

##### ▶ Trimipramine (Non-proprietary)

**Trimipramine (as Trimipramine maleate) 50 mg** Trimipramine 50mg capsules | 28 capsule [POM](#) | £217.50 DT = £217.50

## OTHER ANTIDEPRESSANTS

### Tryptophan

04-Oct-2017

#### (L-Tryptophan)

- **DRUG ACTION** Tryptophan is an essential dietary amino acid, and is a precursor of serotonin; it re-establishes the inhibitory action of serotonin on the amygdaloid nuclei, thereby reducing feelings of anxiety and depression.

#### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

**Treatment-resistant depression (used alone or as adjunct to other antidepressant drugs) (initiated under direction of hospital consultant)**

▶ BY MOUTH

▶ Adult: 1 g 3 times a day; maximum 6 g per day

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** History of eosinophilia myalgia syndrome following use of tryptophan
- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: tryptophan
- **SIDE-EFFECTS** Asthenia · dizziness · drowsiness · eosinophilia myalgia syndrome · headache · myalgia · myopathy · nausea · oedema · suicidal tendencies
- **SIDE-EFFECTS, FURTHER INFORMATION** If patients experience any symptoms of eosinophilia myalgia syndrome (EMS), manufacturer advises to withhold treatment until possibility of EMS is excluded.
- **PREGNANCY** Manufacturer advises caution—no information available.
- **BREAST FEEDING** Manufacturer advises avoid—no information available.
- **MONITORING REQUIREMENTS** Manufacturer advises close monitoring for signs of suicidal thoughts, particularly in patients at high risk and during early treatment and dose changes.
- **PATIENT AND CARER ADVICE** Manufacturer advises patients and carers should be advised to seek medical advice immediately if any clinical worsening, suicidal thoughts, or unusual behaviour develops.  
**Driving and skilled tasks** Manufacturer advises patients should be counselled on the effects on driving and performance of skilled tasks—increased risk of drowsiness.
- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: capsule

#### Capsule

▶ **Optimax** (Intrapharm Laboratories Ltd)

**Tryptophan 500 mg** Optimax 500mg capsules | 84 capsule [POM](#) | £42.00

### Vortioxetine

21-May-2020

- **DRUG ACTION** Vortioxetine inhibits the re-uptake of serotonin (5-HT) and is an antagonist at 5-HT<sub>3</sub> and an agonist at 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptors. This multimodal activity appears to be associated with antidepressant and anxiolytic-like effects.

#### ● INDICATIONS AND DOSE

##### Major depression

▶ BY MOUTH

▶ Adult: Initially 10 mg once daily; adjusted according to response to 5–20 mg once daily

▶ Elderly: Initially 5 mg once daily; increased if necessary up to 20 mg once daily

- **CAUTIONS** Bleeding disorders · cirrhosis of the liver (risk of hyponatraemia) · elderly (risk of hyponatraemia) · history of mania (discontinue if patient entering manic phase) · history of seizures · unstable epilepsy