

Tricyclics (Amitriptyline/Nortriptyline)

Tricyclic drugs, such as amitriptyline and nortriptyline, were historically used as anti-depressants, but newer and more effective drugs are now available limiting their use for this reason. They are now most commonly prescribed for neuropathic pain and migraine. These medications work by changing the levels of certain chemicals in the brain that affect pain and mood.

While tricyclic antidepressants can be effective for these conditions, they can also have side effects. The most common side effects include:

- Dry mouth
- Constipation
- Drowsiness and a hungover feeling
- Weight gain

Other less common side effects may include blurred vision, urinary retention, and heart rhythm abnormalities. It is important to talk to your healthcare provider about any side effects you may experience while taking tricyclic antidepressants.

It may take several weeks for tricyclic antidepressants to take effect, and the dosage may need to be adjusted over time. It is important to take these medications exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider, and not to stop taking them without first consulting with them.

If you are prescribed tricyclic antidepressants, it is important to avoid alcohol and to use caution when driving or operating heavy machinery due to the potential for drowsiness and impaired coordination until you know how these medications affect you individually.

Tricyclic antidepressants can be a helpful treatment option for neuropathic pain and migraine, but it is important to weigh the potential benefits against the potential side effects.