Information on IMIPRAMINE for Service Users and their Families

This leaflet provides general information about your medication. Manufacturer patient information leaflets are also provided with all medicines. If you require further information, speak to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Imipramine is available as tablets or oral liquid.

Imipramine is pronounced:

*Im-ip-ra-meen*

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The Mersey Care Medicines Information Service¹ regularly updates this information sheet.

¹ Medicines Information, Pharmacy, Mossley Hill Hospital, Park Avenue, Liverpool L18 8BU
What is Imipramine for?
Imipramine is part of a group of medications called tricyclic antidepressants which are used to treat symptoms of depression. Symptoms of depression may include low mood, poor sleep, appetite changes, a loss of interest in everyday activities, and feelings of guilt. Imipramine can also be used to treat nocturnal enuresis in children.

How should I take Imipramine?
Before taking any imipramine, tell your doctor if:

- you are allergic to imipramine or any of its ingredients
- you have low blood pressure or poor circulation
- you suffer from any other conditions especially heart, kidney or liver disease, narrow angle glaucoma, thyroid problems, porphyria, mania or urine retention
- you are taking any other medicines including those you have bought yourself, especially other antidepressant drugs or the herbal remedy called St John’s Wort
- you are pregnant (or planning pregnancy) or breast-feeding

Your doctor will decide how much imipramine is right for you to take and you should take this medication in divided doses. If you are taking tablets, swallow them whole with a glass of water. Ask your pharmacist or nurse if you are not sure of anything.

Can I stop taking imipramine if I feel better?
Imipramine helps prevent your symptoms from returning (relapse) so it is best to continue taking it. People who take this type of medication regularly are less likely to deteriorate or have to go into hospital with severe symptoms. It is better to discuss with your doctor how long you will need to be on medication. Antidepressant medication tends to be taken long term.
If you want to stop your medication it is better to do it in discussion with your doctor, and slowly so that you can be monitored for any unpleasant withdrawal effects.

What if I forget a dose of Imipramine?
If you forget the tablets, take the missed dose as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at the usual time then continue your course as before. Do not double the dose or take extra doses to make up. If you forget to take your medicine for more than a few days, call your doctor before taking any more medicine.
When will imipramine start to work?
You may start to feel better in a short time but it can take as long as four weeks before you notice the benefits of this medicine.

Are there any side effects?
Imipramine may cause side effects in some people, but they may vary from person to person. Many side effects wear off over time. Known side effects are:

- drowsiness
- dry mouth
- anxiety and agitation
- restlessness
- sweating
- blurred or double vision
- constipation
- fatigue
- tremor
- sexual problems
- flushing
- stomach pain
- sleeping problems
- Increase in appetite and weight gain
- low blood pressure, feeling dizzy or faint when getting up

Occasionally, more serious side effects can occur. These may include:

- heart rhythm problems
- liver problems
- difficulty passing water
- seizures
- fever, sore throat, brushing
- allergic reaction such as severe rash, breathlessness
- distressing thoughts of self harm and suicide

If you are concerned about side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. If you think a medicine has caused you an unwanted side effect, please report the problem either on a Yellow Card form available from your doctor, nurse or pharmacist OR online at this website http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/.

Can I take other medicines?
Other medicines may interact with imipramine causing unwanted effects. These may include medicines bought over the counter without prescription. Always ask your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines.
Can I drive?
Imipramine can make you feel sleepy, dizzy and less alert. If you are affected in this way, do not drive or work with machinery. You may commit an offence if you drive when your condition or treatment affects your ability to drive safely. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist or contact DVLA if you are not sure.

Can I drink alcohol?
Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medication. The combined effects of alcohol and imipramine can make you sleepy increasing the risk of falls and accidents. Alcohol may make depression and anxiety worse.

Can I get pregnant or breast feed?
Medicines can have harmful effects at any time during pregnancy. If you are pregnant, or are planning to get pregnant, you should seek advice from your doctor. You and your doctor or specialist will decide if the potential benefits of treatment outweigh the potential risks to the baby.
Imipramine may pass into breast milk. If you are breast feeding, you should get your doctor's advice.

What alternative treatments are there?
Imipramine is an antidepressant known as 'tricyclic' antidepressant. Other 'tricyclic' antidepressants include clomipramine, amitriptyline and lofepramine. A different group of antidepressants known as SSRIs such as fluoxetine, citalopram and paroxetine is another alternative. Other medications such as duloxetine, mirtazapine and venlafaxine may be used to treat depression. Talking therapies may also be an option

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to provide you with further information about these medications.

IMPORTANT
Remember to keep medicines where children cannot see or reach them. Never share medicines with others even if their symptoms appear the same as yours.

NEVER EXCEED THE STATED DOSE OF YOUR MEDICINE