

Desipramine

Desipramine products listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary:¹

Apo-desipramine 10 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, 100 mg tablets
PMS-desipramine 50 mg, 75 mg tablets
Nu-desipramine 100 mg tablet

Health Canada Drug Product Database lists these brands licensed in Canada:²
Apotex, Dominion, NovoPharm, Pharmascience

Uses:

Treatment of major depressive disorder³

Use: Unlabeled/Investigational

Chronic non-malignant pain; abdominal pain associated with irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety disorders (2nd line), ADHD (2nd-3rd line)³

Therapeutic Alternatives:

Nortriptyline (convert at roughly ½ the dose of amitriptyline and titrate as needed), amitriptyline, clomipramine, doxepin, imipramine, trimipramine (convert at same dose as desipramine)⁴

Chronic non-malignant pain – other TCAs; anticonvulsants; SNRIs; topical lidocaine (postherpetic neuralgia); opioids⁵

IBS – other TCAs (amitriptyline, nortriptyline); other treatments depend on presentation of symptoms and may include SSRIs, antispasmodics, antidiarrheals, stool bulk-forming agents^{6,7}

Monitoring Parameters:

- a) Improvement in subjective and objective clinical signs and symptoms/measures of the condition being treated.
- b) Increase in mood, physical activity, mental alertness, and appetite, and response to environmental events, and interpersonal interactions.
- c) Regulation of sleep patterns.
- d) Decrease in psychomotor agitation or retardation.

References:

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4. Jensen B, Regier L. Antidepressant comparison chart. RxFiles drug comparison charts. 8th ed. Saskatoon, SK: Saskatoon Health Region; 2010. p.105. Available from: www.RxFiles.ca. Accessed 2010 Nov 12.
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6. Kolodziejak L, Schuster B, Regier L, Jensen B. Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) – drugs for symptom management. RxFiles drug comparison charts. 8th ed. Saskatoon, SK: Saskatoon Health Region; 2010. p.43. Available from: www.RxFiles.ca. Accessed 2010 Nov 12.
7. Thompson WG. Gastrointestinal disorders: irritable bowel syndrome. In: Gray Jean, editor. E-Therapeutics+ [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2010 [updated Nov 2009; cited 2010 Nov 12]. Available from: <http://www.e-therapeutics.ca> Also available in paper copy from the publisher