

## **Desipramine**

Desipramine products listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary:<sup>1</sup>

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:<sup>2</sup>  
Apotex, Dominion, NovoPharm, Pharmascience

### **Uses:**

Treatment of major depressive disorder<sup>3</sup>

### **Use: Unlabeled/Investigational**

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

### **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)<sup>4</sup>

Chronic non-malignant pain – other TCAs; anticonvulsants; SNRIs; topical lidocaine (postherpetic neuralgia); opioids<sup>5</sup>

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

### **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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3. e-CPS [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2010 [updated 2010 Nov 9; cited 2010 Nov 12]. Desipramine [CPhA monograph]. Available from: <http://www.e-cps.ca>. Also available in paper copy from the publisher.
4. Jensen B, Regier L. Antidepressant comparison chart. RxFiles drug comparison charts. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Saskatoon, SK: Saskatoon Health Region; 2010. p.105. Available from: [www.RxFiles.ca](http://www.RxFiles.ca). Accessed 2010 Nov 12.
5. Watson C. Neurologic disorders: neuropathic pain. In: Gray Jean, editor. E-Therapeutics+ [Internet]. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2010 [updated Jul 2010; cited 2010 Nov 12]. Available from: <http://www.e-therapeutics.ca>. Also available in paper copy from the publisher

6. Kolodziejak L, Schuster B, Regier L, Jensen B. Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) – drugs for symptom management. RxFiles drug comparison charts. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Saskatoon, SK: Saskatoon Health Region; 2010. p.43. Available from: [www.RxFiles.ca](http://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