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PSYCHIATRY

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PATIENT EDUCATION

Amoxapine

Generic tablets / Antidepressant

A guide for adults taking amoxapine.
Follow the directions on your prescription and your provider's recommendations.

FOLLOW YOUR DOSE SCHEDULE | REPORT NEW INVOLUNTARY MOVEMENTS

Formulations: Oral tablets are taken in divided doses or, for some prescriptions, at bedtime. Do not combine divided doses into one dose yourself.

What it is used for

Amoxapine treats depression, including depression accompanied by anxiety or psychotic symptoms. It is not a general substitute for schizophrenia treatment.

How it works

It slows norepinephrine reuptake and affects serotonin signaling. One of its active metabolites also blocks dopamine receptors, which adds risks of movement and hormone-related side effects.

What to expect over time

Sleep, energy, or appetite may change before mood improves. Benefit usually builds over several weeks; some conditions need a longer trial at a useful dose.

Track the symptoms you are treating and how you manage daily activities. Keep follow-up appointments. Schedule an earlier appointment if your mood gets worse.

Taking your medication

- Follow your prescribed schedule, with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take it when you remember unless it is almost time for the next dose. Then skip it. Do not double a dose.
- Avoid alcohol. Do not drive until you know how you respond.
- Consult with your provider before reducing or stopping treatment.

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AMOXAPINE / 02

Side effects and safety

Possible side effects

- Dry mouth, constipation, or blurred vision
- Drowsiness or dizziness when standing
- Sweating, weight change, or sexual side effects

Keeping track of treatment

Some side effects resolve with time; others may require a change of medication. Discuss persistent or bothersome side effects with your provider.

Antidepressants can increase suicidal thoughts in people under 25. Watch for changes in mood or behavior at any age, especially when starting treatment or changing a dose.

Your provider may check pulse, blood pressure, weight, and an ECG, depending on your age, dose, other medications, and heart history. Report constipation or urinary problems before they become severe.

Report stiffness, severe restlessness, or involuntary mouth or tongue movements. Movement checks matter because some abnormal movements can persist.

If you take too much

For a suspected overdose, call Poison Control at **1-800-222-1222** immediately, even if you feel well. Call 911 for a seizure, collapse, trouble breathing, or inability to wake.

Before you start

Discuss heart disease, a recent heart attack, fainting, glaucoma, difficulty urinating, severe constipation, seizures, bipolar symptoms, and kidney or liver problems.

Discuss pregnancy, pregnancy plans, and breastfeeding with your provider. Treatment decisions should consider both the medication and the condition being treated.

Medicines and interactions

Review all your medications with your provider, including over-the-counter medicines and supplements. Have new medications checked before taking them.

Do not combine with an MAOI antidepressant. Switching requires a specific waiting period; fluoxetine can continue to affect other medications for weeks.

Some antidepressants raise tricyclic levels. Medicines that affect heart rhythm, sedating antihistamines, bladder medicines, opioids, and alcohol can add important risks.

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AMOXAPINE / 03

Living with your treatment

When to get help

Emergency symptoms. Get emergency care for a seizure, collapse, fever with stiffness and confusion, severe abdominal pain, or inability to urinate. Any suspected overdose needs immediate assessment; seizures can occur even without typical early heart-tracing changes.

Prompt medical advice. Report new involuntary movements, breast discharge, menstrual changes, marked agitation, or unusually high energy with little need for sleep.

If you feel unsafe or have thoughts of self-harm, call 911 or go to an emergency department.

Your questions answered

Can I stop when I feel better?
Consult with your provider. Continuing treatment after improvement can reduce the chance that symptoms return. Most antidepressants should be reduced gradually to limit withdrawal symptoms.

What if I have sexual side effects?
Changes in desire, arousal, or orgasm are worth discussing. Your provider can review the dose or treatment options; do not stop or skip doses on your own.

Everyday tips

Stand up slowly and use caution on stairs if you feel lightheaded.

Sugar-free gum, regular dental care, and adequate fluids may help dry mouth. Discuss persistent constipation.

Store your supply securely. An overdose can be life-threatening even before symptoms appear.

Storage and safety

Keep medication in its labeled container, away from excess heat and moisture and out of reach of children and pets. Do not share it. Ask a pharmacy about disposal of unused medication.

Sources

MedlinePlus: Amoxapine

Educational handout; does not replace your prescription or provider's recommendations.