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PSYCHIATRY

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PATIENT EDUCATION

Maprotiline

Ludiomil / Historical U.S. and international reference

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

NEVER RAISE THE DOSE YOURSELF

HISTORICAL U.S. FORMULATION; CONFIRM LOCAL AVAILABILITY

Formulations: Oral tablets have a long-lasting effect. The daily dose may be taken once or divided, depending on the prescription.

What it is used for

Maprotiline is an older tetracyclic antidepressant for depression. Availability varies by country; confirm a currently supplied formulation before planning treatment.

How it works

It mainly slows norepinephrine reuptake. Other receptor effects contribute to sleepiness, constipation, dry mouth, and low blood pressure when standing.

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 gradual dose increases exactly; do not increase sooner because improvement is slow.
- 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 and do not stop regular treatment without a reduction plan.

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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 tremor, marked confusion, or a seizure. Blood counts or liver tests may be appropriate during ongoing treatment.

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.

A seizure disorder or a recent heart attack can rule out treatment. Maprotiline has a clinically important seizure risk, especially with rapid increases, high doses, or interacting medicines.

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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Living with your treatment

When to get help

Emergency symptoms. Get emergency care for a seizure, severe allergic reaction, or sudden eye pain with vision changes. Fever with agitation, diarrhea, and stiff or twitching muscles may be serotonin syndrome and needs urgent assessment.

Prompt medical advice. Contact your provider right away for marked agitation, new hallucinations, or unusually high energy with very 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: maprotiline
Official prescribing information: maprotiline

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