



## TOPICAL CREAM MEDICATION & MEDICATION CLASS INFO

### Medication Info

#### **Amitriptyline** (a mee trip' ti leen)

Amitriptyline is used to treat symptoms of depression and long-term (chronic) pain syndromes caused by nerve problems such as shingles or diabetic neuropathy. It is in a class of medications called tricyclic antidepressants. It works by increasing the amounts of certain natural substances in the brain.

#### **Baclofen** (bak' loe fen)

Baclofen acts on the spinal cord nerves and decreases the number and severity of muscle spasms caused by multiple sclerosis or spinal cord diseases. It also relieves pain and improves muscle movement.

#### **Bupivacaine** (bu-piv' ah-kān)

Bupivacaine is used to reduce the sensation of pain, relax muscles, calm fear and allay anxiety. It is in a class of medications called local anesthetics. It works by stopping nerves from sending pain signals to the brain.

#### **Carbamazepine** (kar ba maz' e peen)

Carbamazepine is used alone or in combination with other medications to control certain types of seizures. It is also used to treat trigeminal neuralgia (a condition that causes facial nerve pain). Carbamazepine is in a class of medications called anticonvulsants. It works by reducing abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

#### **Clonidine** (kloe' ni deen)

Clonidine is used alone or in combination with other medications to treat high blood pressure. It works by decreasing the heart rate and relaxing the blood vessels so that blood can flow more easily through the body.

#### **Cyclobenzaprine** (sye kloe ben' za preen)

Cyclobenzaprine, a muscle relaxant, is used with rest, physical therapy, and other measures to relax muscles and relieve pain and discomfort caused by strains, sprains, and other muscle injuries.

#### **Diclofenac** (dye kloe' fen ak)

Diclofenac is used to relieve pain, tenderness, swelling, and stiffness caused by osteoarthritis (arthritis caused by a breakdown of the lining of the joints), rheumatoid arthritis (arthritis caused by swelling of the lining of the joints), and ankylosing spondylitis (arthritis that mainly affects the spine). Diclofenac is in a class of medications called NSAIDs. It works by stopping the body's

production of a substance that causes pain, fever, and inflammation.

**Flurbiprofen** (flure bi' proe fen)

Flurbiprofen is used to relieve pain, tenderness, swelling, and stiffness caused by osteoarthritis (arthritis caused by a breakdown of the lining of the joints) and rheumatoid arthritis (arthritis caused by swelling of the lining of the joints). Flurbiprofen is in a class of medications called NSAIDs. It works by stopping the body's production of a substance that causes pain, fever, and inflammation.

**Gabapentin** (ga' ba pen tin)

Gabapentin is used to relieve the pain of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN; the burning, stabbing pain or aches that may last for months or years after an attack of shingles). Gabapentin is in a class of medications called anticonvulsants. Gabapentin relieves the pain of PHN by changing the way the body senses pain.

**Imipramine** (im ip' ra meen)

Imipramine tablets and capsules are used to treat depression and long-term (chronic) pain syndromes caused by nerve problems such as shingles or diabetic neuropathy. It is in a class of medications called tricyclic antidepressants. It works by increasing the amounts of certain natural substances in the brain.

**Ketamine** (ke 'tah-mēn)

Ketamine is a Class III controlled substance. It is used to relieve chronic, sharp, burning neuropathic pain. Ketamine is in a class of medications called NMDA channel blockers.

**Ketoprofen** (kee toe proe' fen)

Ketoprofen is used to relieve pain, tenderness, swelling, and stiffness caused by osteoarthritis (arthritis caused by a breakdown of the lining of the joints) and rheumatoid arthritis (arthritis caused by swelling of the lining of the joints). Ketoprofen is in a class of medications called NSAIDs. It works by stopping the body's production of a substance that causes pain, fever, and inflammation.

**Lidocaine** (lye' doe kane)

Lidocaine is used to relieve the pain of post-herpetic neuralgia (the burning, stabbing pains, or aches that may last for months or years after a shingles infection). It is in a class of medications called local anesthetics. It works by stopping nerves from sending pain signals to the brain.

**Mefenamic Acid** (me fe nam' ik)

Mefenamic acid is used to relieve mild to moderate pain, including menstrual pain (pain that happens before or during a menstrual period). Mefenamic acid is in a class of medications called NSAIDs. It works by stopping the body's production of a substance that causes pain, fever, and inflammation.

**Nifedipine** (nye fed' i peen)

Nifedipine is used to treat high blood pressure and to control angina (chest pain). Nifedipine is in a class of medications called calcium-channel blockers. It works by relaxing the blood vessels so the heart does not have to pump as hard. It also increases the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart.

**Tetracaine** (tet' rah-kān)

Tetracaine is used to reduce the sensation of pain, relax muscles, calm fear, and allay anxiety. It is in a class of medications called local anesthetics. It works by stopping nerves from sending pain signals to the brain.

**Orphenadrine** (or fen' a dreen)

Orphenadrine is used with rest, physical therapy, and other measures to relieve pain and discomfort caused by strains, sprains, and other muscle injuries. Orphenadrine is in a class of medications called skeletal muscle relaxants. It works by changing the way the body senses muscle pain.

**Verapamil** (ver ap' a mil)

Verapamil is used to treat high blood pressure and to control angina (chest pain). Verapamil is in a class of medications called calcium-channel blockers. It works by relaxing the blood vessels so the heart does not have to pump as hard. It also increases the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart and slows electrical activity in the heart to control the heart rate.

**Medication Class Info****Anticonvulsants**

Anticonvulsants are generally used to control some types of seizures in the treatment of epilepsy, but can also be used to manage neuralgia caused by shingles.

**Calcium-channel Blockers**

Calcium-channel blockers prevent the influx of calcium ions into cardiac and smooth muscle. These medications are used to treat high blood pressure and control angina (chest pain).

**Local Anesthetics**

Local anesthetics block nerve transmission in the nerves affected by the local presence of the drug. These medications numb only a small, specific area of the body for a short period of time. Most local anesthetics are in the -caine series.

**Muscle Relaxants**

Muscle relaxants are used to treat acute muscle problems and chronic pain involving painful muscle spasms. These medications reduce muscle tone and relax tight, tense muscles. Some of these medications have direct effects on skeletal muscle fibers, while others influence both nerves and muscles.

**NSAIDs**

The NSAID abbreviation stands for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. These medications decrease pain and inflammation. Example NSAIDs include aspirin and ibuprofen.

## **Tricyclic Antidepressants**

Tricyclic antidepressants increase the levels of certain brain chemicals that improve mood and regulate pain signals. These medicines are often used in lower doses when they are used to treat long-term (chronic) pain syndromes caused by nerve problems such as shingles or diabetic neuropathy.