Antidepressants are medicines used to treat a variety of conditions, including mood disorders, eating disorders, and pain. They work by altering the brain's chemistry and increasing the levels of certain chemicals, such as serotonin and norepinephrine, that can help improve mood and reduce anxiety. Though antidepressants are generally safe and effective, they can also cause side effects. Protriptyline is a tricyclic antidepressant that is no longer widely used. It is important to monitor patients for potential adverse effects such as suicidal ideation, especially when initiating treatment or increasing dose. It is unknown whether the risk of suicidal ideation extends to longer-term use, i.e., beyond several months. However, it is recommended that patients be assessed for the presence of suicidal ideation or behavior and suicidal risk during treatment. Treatment should be closely monitored and patients should be advised to report any changes in mood or behavior. Screen all patients for bipolar disorder before starting treatment with antidepressants. A major depressive episode may be the initial presentation of bipolar disorder. It is generally believed (though not established in controlled trials) that treating such an episode with an antidepressant alone may increase the risk of such a conversion. A major depressive episode may be the initial presentation of bipolar disorder. Medscape Reference ID: 3541050
Antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some children, teenagers, and young adults when the medicine is first started.

1. Antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some children, teenagers, and young adults when the medicine is first started.

2. Depression and other serious mental illnesses are the most important causes of suicidal thoughts and actions. Some people may have a particularly high risk of having suicidal thoughts or actions. These include people who have (or have a family history of) bipolar illness (also called manic-depressive illness) or suicidal thoughts or actions.

3. How can I watch for and try to prevent suicidal thoughts and actions in myself or a family member?

   • Pay close attention to any changes, especially sudden changes, in mood, behavior, thoughts, or feelings. This is very important when an antidepressant medicine is first started or when the dose is changed.

   • Call the healthcare provider right away to report new or sudden changes in mood, behavior, thoughts, or feelings.

   • Keep all follow-up visits with the healthcare provider as scheduled. Call the healthcare provider between visits as needed, especially if you have concerns about symptoms.

   • Call a healthcare provider right away if you or your family member has any of the following symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you:
     - thoughts about suicide or dying
     - new or worse irritability
     - attempts to commit suicide
     - acting aggressive, being angry, or violent
     - new or worse depression
     - acting on dangerous impulses
     - new or worse anxiety
     - an extreme increase in activity and talking (mania)
     - feeling very agitated or restless
     - other unusual changes in behavior or mood
     - panic attacks
     - visual problems: eye pain, changes in vision, swelling or redness in or around the eye
     - trouble sleeping (insomnia)

What else do I need to know about antidepressant medicines?

• Never stop an antidepressant medicine without first talking to a healthcare provider. Stopping an antidepressant medicine suddenly can cause other symptoms.

• Visual problems: Only some people are at risk for these problems. You may want to undergo an eye examination to see if you are at risk and receive preventative treatment if you are.

• Antidepressants are medicines used to treat depression and other illnesses. It is important to discuss all the risks of treating depression and also the risks of not treating it. Patients and their families or other caregivers should discuss all treatment choices with the healthcare provider, not just the use of antidepressants.

• Antidepressant medicines have other side effects. Talk to the healthcare provider about the side effects of the medicine prescribed for you or your family member.

• Antidepressant medicines can interact with other medicines. Know all of the medicines that you or your family member takes. Keep a list of all medicines to show the healthcare provider. Do not start new medicines without first checking with your healthcare provider.

• Not all antidepressant medicines prescribed for children are FDA approved for use in children. Talk to your child’s healthcare provider for more information.

If you would like more information, call 1-888-838-2872.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088. This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for all antidepressants.

Teva Select Brands, Horsham, PA 19044
Division of Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.

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Antidepressant Medicines, Depression and other Serious Mental Illnesses, and Suicidal Thoughts or Actions

Read the Medication Guide that comes with you or your family member's antidepressant medicine. This Medication Guide is only about the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions with antidepressant medicines. Talk to your, or your family member's, healthcare provider about:

- all risks and benefits of treatment with antidepressant medicines
- all treatment choices for depression or other serious mental illness

What is the most important information I should know about antidepressant medicines, depression and other serious mental illnesses, and suicidal thoughts or actions?

1. Antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some children, teenagers, and young adults when the medicine is first started.

2. Depression and other serious mental illnesses are the most important causes of suicidal thoughts and actions. Some people may have a particularly high risk of having suicidal thoughts or actions. These include people who have (or have a family history of) bipolar illness (also called manic-depressive illness) or suicidal thoughts or actions.

3. How can I watch for and try to prevent suicidal thoughts and actions in myself or a family member?
   - Pay close attention to any changes, especially sudden changes, in mood, behaviors, thoughts, or feelings. This is very important when an antidepressant medicine is first started or when the dose is changed.
   - Call the healthcare provider right away to report new or sudden changes in mood, behavior, thoughts, or feelings.
   - Keep all follow-up visits with the healthcare provider as scheduled. Call the healthcare provider between visits as needed, especially if you have concerns about symptoms.

Call a healthcare provider right away if you or your family member has any of the following symptoms, especially if they are new, worse, or worry you:

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