

# LIMBITROL® **C**<sub>IV</sub>

(chlordiazepoxide)

(amitriptyline HCl)

**DS (double strength) TABLETS**

**TABLETS**

**WARNING: RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH OPIOIDS; ABUSE, MISUSE, AND ADDICTION; DEPENDENCE AND WITHDRAWAL REACTIONS; and SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS**

- **Concomitant use of benzodiazepines and opioids may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Reserve concomitant prescribing of these drugs for patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate. Limit dosages and durations to the minimum required. Follow patients for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation (see WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS).**
- **The use of benzodiazepines, including LIMBITROL, exposes users to risks of abuse, misuse, and addiction, which can lead to overdose or death. Abuse and misuse of benzodiazepines commonly involve concomitant use of other medications, alcohol, and/or illicit substances, which is associated with an increased frequency of serious adverse outcomes. Before prescribing LIMBITROL and throughout treatment, assess each patient's risk for abuse, misuse, and addiction (see WARNINGS).**
- **The continued use of benzodiazepines, including LIMBITROL, may lead to clinically significant physical dependence. The risks of dependence and withdrawal increase with longer treatment duration and higher daily dose. Abrupt discontinuation or rapid dosage reduction of LIMBITROL after continued use may precipitate acute withdrawal reactions, which can be life-threatening. To reduce the risk of withdrawal reactions, use a gradual taper to discontinue LIMBITROL or reduce the dosage (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and WARNINGS).**
- **Antidepressants increased the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in pediatric and young adult patients in short-term studies. Closely monitor all antidepressant-treated patients for clinical worsening, and for emergence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors (see WARNINGS). LIMBITROL is not approved for use in pediatric patients (see PRECAUTIONS).**

**DESCRIPTION:** LIMBITROL combines for oral administration, chlordiazepoxide, an agent for the relief of anxiety and tension, and amitriptyline, an antidepressant. It is available in DS (double strength) white, film-coated tablets, each containing 10 mg chlordiazepoxide and 25 mg amitriptyline (as the hydrochloride salt); and in blue, filmcoated tablets, each containing 5 mg chlordiazepoxide and 12.5 mg amitriptyline (as the hydrochloride salt). Each tablet also contains corn starch, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol, povidone and propylene glycol; LIMBITROL tablets contain the following colorant system-FD&C Blue No. 1, aluminum lake and titanium dioxide. LIMBITROL DS tablets contain titanium dioxide.

Chlordiazepoxide is a benzodiazepine with the formula 7-chloro-2-(methyl-amino)-5-phenyl-3H-1,4-benzodiazepine 4-oxide. It is a slightly yellow crystalline material and is insoluble in water. The molecular weight is 299.76.

Amitriptyline is a dibenzocycloheptadiene derivative. The formula is 10,11-dihydro- *N,N*-dimethyl-5H-dibenzo [a,d] cycloheptene- $\Delta^5$ -propylamine hydrochloride. It is a white or practically white crystalline compound that is freely soluble in water. The molecular weight is 313.87.

**ACTIONS:** Both components of LIMBITROL exert their action in the central nervous system. Extensive studies with chlordiazepoxide in many animal species suggest action in the limbic system. Recent evidence indicates that the limbic system is involved in emotional response. Taming action was observed in some species. The mechanism of action of amitriptyline in man is not known, but the drug appears to interfere with the reuptake of norepinephrine into adrenergic nerve endings. This action may prolong the sympathetic activity of biogenic amines.

**INDICATIONS:** LIMBITROL is indicated for the treatment of patients with moderate to severe depression associated with moderate to severe anxiety.

The therapeutic response to LIMBITROL occurs earlier and with fewer treatment failures than when either amitriptyline or chlordiazepoxide is used alone.

Symptoms likely to respond in the first week of treatment include: insomnia, feelings of guilt or worthlessness, agitation, psychic and somatic anxiety, suicidal ideation and anorexia.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:** LIMBITROL is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to either benzodiazepines or tricyclic antidepressants. It should not be given concomitantly with a monoamine oxidase inhibitor. Hyperpyretic crises, severe convulsions and deaths have occurred in patients receiving a tricyclic antidepressant and a monoamine oxidase inhibitor simultaneously. When it is desired to replace a monoamine oxidase inhibitor with LIMBITROL, a minimum of 14 days should be allowed to elapse after the former is discontinued. LIMBITROL should then be initiated cautiously with gradual increase in dosage until optimum response is achieved.

This drug is contraindicated during the acute recovery phase following myocardial infarction.

**WARNINGS:**

**Risks from Concomitant Use with Opioids:** Concomitant use of benzodiazepines, including Limbitrol, and opioids may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Because of these risks, reserve concomitant prescribing of these drugs in patients for whom alternative treatment options are inadequate.

Observational studies have demonstrated that concomitant use of opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines increases the risk of drug-related mortality compared to use of opioids alone. If a decision is made to prescribe Limbitrol concomitantly with opioids, prescribe the lowest effective dosages and minimum durations of concomitant use, and follow patients closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. In patients already receiving an opioid analgesic, prescribe a lower initial dose of Limbitrol than indicated in the absence of an opioid and titrate based on clinical response. If an opioid is initiated in a patient already taking Limbitrol, prescribe a lower initial dose of the opioid and titrate based upon clinical response.

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of respiratory depression and sedation when Limbitrol is used with opioids. Advise patients not to drive or operate heavy machinery until the effects of concomitant use with the opioid have been determined [see PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions].

**Abuse, Misuse, and Addiction:** The use of benzodiazepines, including LIMBITROL, exposes users to the risks of abuse, misuse, and addiction, which can lead to overdose or death. Abuse and misuse of benzodiazepines often (but not always) involve the use of doses greater than the maximum recommended dosage and commonly involve concomitant use of other medications, alcohol, and/or illicit substances, which is associated with an increased frequency of serious adverse outcomes, including respiratory depression, overdose, or death (see DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE: Abuse).

Before prescribing LIMBITROL and throughout treatment, assess each patient's risk for abuse, misuse, and addiction (e.g., using a standardized screening tool). Use of LIMBITROL, particularly in patients at elevated risk, necessitates counseling about the risks and proper use of LIMBITROL along with monitoring for signs and symptoms of abuse, misuse, and addiction. Prescribe the lowest effective dosage; avoid or minimize concomitant use of CNS depressants and other substances associated with abuse, misuse, and addiction (e.g., opioid analgesics, stimulants); and advise patients on the proper disposal of unused drug. If a substance use disorder is suspected, evaluate the patient and institute (or refer them for) early treatment, as appropriate.

**Dependence and Withdrawal Reactions:** To reduce the risk of withdrawal reactions, use a gradual taper to discontinue LIMBITROL or reduce the dosage (a patient-specific plan should be used to taper the dose) (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: Discontinuation or Dosage Reduction of LIMBITROL).

Patients at an increased risk of withdrawal adverse reactions after benzodiazepine discontinuation or rapid dosage reduction include those who take higher dosages, and those who have had longer durations of use.

Acute Withdrawal Reactions

The continued use of benzodiazepines, including LIMBITROL, may lead to clinically significant physical dependence. Abrupt discontinuation or rapid dosage reduction of LIMBITROL after continued use, or administration of flumazenil (a benzodiazepine antagonist) may precipitate acute withdrawal reactions, which can be life-threatening (e.g., seizures) (see DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE: Dependence).

#### Protracted Withdrawal Syndrome

In some cases, benzodiazepine users have developed a protracted withdrawal syndrome with withdrawal symptoms lasting weeks to more than 12 months (see DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE: Dependence).

**Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Adolescent and Young Adults:** In pooled analyses of placebo-controlled trials of antidepressant drugs (SSRIs and other antidepressant classes) that included approximately 77,000 adult patients and 4,500 pediatric patients, the incidence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in antidepressant-treated patients age 24 years and younger was greater than in placebo-treated patients. There was considerable variation in risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors among drugs, but there was an increased risk identified in young patients for most drugs studied. There were differences in absolute risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors across the different indications, with the highest incidence in patients with MDD. The drug-placebo differences in the number of cases of suicidal thoughts and behaviors per 1,000 patients treated are provided in Table 1.

**Table 1: Risk Differences of the Number of Patients of Suicidal Thoughts and Behavior in the Pooled Placebo-Controlled Trials of Antidepressants in Pediatric and Adult Patients**

Age Range	Drug-Placebo Difference in Number of Patients of Suicidal Thoughts or Behaviors per 1,000 Patients Treated
	<b>Increases Compared to Placebo</b>
<18 years old	14 additional patients
18 to 24 years old	5 additional patients
	<b>Decreases Compared to Placebo</b>
25 to 64 years old	1 fewer patient
≥65 years old	6 fewer patients

It is unknown whether the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in children, adolescents, and young adults extends to longer-term use, i.e., beyond four months. However, there is substantial evidence from placebo-controlled maintenance trials in adults with MDD that antidepressants delay the recurrence of depression and that depression itself is a risk factor for suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Monitor all antidepressant-treated patients for any indication for clinical worsening and emergence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors, especially during the initial few months of drug therapy, and at times of dosage changes. Counsel family members or caregivers of patients to monitor for changes in behavior and to alert the healthcare provider. Consider changing the therapeutic regimen, including possibly discontinuing Limbitrol, in patients whose depression is persistently worse, or who are experiencing emergent suicidal thoughts or behaviors.

**Activation of Mania or Hypomania:** In patients with bipolar disorder, treating a depressive episode with Limbitrol or another antidepressant may precipitate a mixed/manic episode. Prior to initiating treatment with Limbitrol, screen patients for any personal or family history of bipolar disorder, mania, or hypomania.

**Angle-Closure Glaucoma:** The pupillary dilation that occurs following use of many antidepressant drugs including LIMBITROL, may trigger an angle closure attack in a patient with anatomically narrow angles who does not have a patent iridectomy.

**General:** Because of the atropine-like action of the amitriptyline component, great care should be used in treating patients with a history of urinary retention or angle-closure glaucoma. In patients with glaucoma, even average doses may precipitate an attack. Severe constipation may occur in patients taking tricyclic antidepressants in combination with anticholinergic-type drugs.

Patients with cardiovascular disorders should be watched closely. Tricyclic antidepressant drugs, particularly when given in high doses, have been reported to produce arrhythmias, sinus tachycardia and prolongation of conduction time. Myocardial infarction and stroke have been reported in patients receiving drugs of this class.

Because of the sedative effects of LIMBITROL, patients should be cautioned about combined effects with alcohol or other CNS depressants. The additive effects may produce a harmful level of sedation and CNS depression.

Patients receiving LIMBITROL should be cautioned against engaging in hazardous occupations requiring complete mental alertness, such as operating machinery or driving a motor vehicle.

**Neonatal Sedation and Withdrawal Syndrome:** Use of LIMBITROL late in pregnancy can result in sedation (respiratory depression, lethargy, hypotonia) and/or withdrawal symptoms (hyperreflexia, irritability, restlessness, tremors, inconsolable crying, and feeding difficulties) in the neonate (*see PRECAUTIONS, Pregnancy*). Monitor neonates exposed to LIMBITROL during pregnancy or labor for signs of sedation and monitor neonates exposed to LIMBITROL during pregnancy for signs of withdrawal; manage these neonates accordingly.

**PRECAUTIONS: General:** Use with caution in patients with a history of seizures.

Close supervision is required when LIMBITROL is given to hyperthyroid patients or those on thyroid medication.

The usual precautions should be observed when treating patients with impaired renal or hepatic function.

Patients with suicidal ideation should not have easy access to large quantities of the drug. The possibility of suicide in depressed patients remains until significant remission occurs.

**Information for Patients:** Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide).

### **Risks from Concomitant Use with Opioids**

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of potentially fatal respiratory depression and sedation when LIMBITROL is used with opioids and not to use such drugs concomitantly unless supervised by a health care provider. Advise patients not to drive or operate heavy machinery until the effects of concomitant use with the opioid have been determined (see WARNINGS: Risks from Concomitant Use with Opioids and PRECAUTIONS: Drug Interactions).

### **Abuse, Misuse, and Addiction**

Inform patients that the use of LIMBITROL, even at recommended dosages, exposes users to risks of abuse, misuse, and addiction, which can lead to overdose and death, especially when used in combination with other medications (e.g., opioid analgesics), alcohol, and/or illicit substances. Inform patients about the signs and symptoms of benzodiazepine abuse, misuse, and addiction; to seek medical help if they develop these signs and/or symptoms; and on the proper disposal of unused drug (see WARNINGS: Abuse, Misuse, and Addiction and DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE).

### **Withdrawal Reactions**

Inform patients that the continued use of LIMBITROL may lead to clinically significant physical dependence and that abrupt discontinuation or rapid dosage reduction of LIMBITROL may precipitate acute withdrawal reactions, which can be life-threatening. Inform patients that in some cases, patients taking benzodiazepines have developed a protracted withdrawal syndrome with withdrawal symptoms lasting weeks to more than 12 months. Instruct patients that discontinuation or dosage reduction of LIMBITROL may require a slow taper (see WARNINGS-Dependence and Withdrawal Reactions and DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE).

### **Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors**

Advise patients and caregivers to look for the emergence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors, especially early during treatment and when the dosage is adjusted up or down (see WARNINGS-Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Adolescents and Young Adults).

### **Pregnancy**

Advise pregnant females that use of LIMBITROL late in pregnancy can result in sedation (respiratory depression, lethargy, hypotonia) and/or withdrawal symptoms (hyperreflexia, irritability, restlessness, tremors, inconsolable crying, and feeding difficulties) in newborns (see **Warnings, Neonatal Sedation and Withdrawal Syndrome and Precautions, Pregnancy**). Instruct patients to inform their healthcare provider if they are pregnant.

Advise patients that there is a pregnancy exposure registry that monitors pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to LIMBITROL during pregnancy (see **Precautions, Pregnancy**).

### **Nursing**

Advise patients that breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with LIMBITROL (see Precautions, Nursing Mothers).

**Essential Laboratory Tests:** Patients on prolonged treatment should have periodic liver function tests and blood counts.

### ***Drug-Drug Interactions***

The concomitant use of benzodiazepines and opioids increases the risk of respiratory depression because of actions at different receptor sites in the CNS that control respiration. Benzodiazepines interact at GABA<sub>A</sub> sites and opioids interact primarily at mu receptors. When benzodiazepines and opioids are combined, the potential for benzodiazepines to significantly worsen opioid-related respiratory depression exists. Limit dosage and duration of concomitant use of benzodiazepines and opioids, and monitor patients closely for respiratory depression and sedation.

### ***Topiramate***

Some patients may experience a large increase in amitriptyline concentration in the presence of topiramate and any adjustments in amitriptyline dose should be made according to the patient's clinical response and not on the basis of plasma levels.

**Drug and Treatment Interactions:** Because of its amitriptyline component, LIMBITROL may block the antihypertensive action of guanethidine or compounds with a similar mechanism of action.

**Drugs Metabolized by P450 2D6:** The biochemical activity of the drug metabolizing isozyme cytochrome P450 2D6 (debrisoquin hydroxylase) is reduced in a subset of the Caucasian population (about 7% to 10% of Caucasians are so called “poor metabolizers”); reliable estimates of the prevalence of reduced P450 2D6 isozyme activity among Asian, African and other populations are not yet available. Poor metabolizers have higher than expected plasma concentrations of tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) when given usual doses. Depending on the fraction of drug metabolized by P450 2D6, the increase in plasma concentration may be small or quite large (8-fold increase in plasma AUC of the TCA).

In addition, certain drugs inhibit the activity of this isozyme and make normal metabolizers resemble poor metabolizers. An individual who is stable on a given dose of TCA may become abruptly toxic when given one of these inhibiting drugs as concomitant therapy. The drugs that inhibit cytochrome P450 2D6 include some that are not metabolized by the enzyme (quinidine; cimetidine) and many that are substrates for P450 2D6 (many other antidepressants, phenothiazines, and the type 1c antiarrhythmics propafenone and flecainide). While all the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), e.g., fluoxetine, sertraline and paroxetine, inhibit P450 2D6, they may vary in the extent of inhibition. The extent to which SSRI TCA interactions may pose clinical problems will depend on the degree of inhibition and the pharmacokinetics of the SSRI involved. Nevertheless, caution is indicated in the coadministration of TCAs with any of the SSRIs and also in switching from one class to the other. Of particular importance, sufficient time must elapse before initiating TCA treatment in a patient being withdrawn from fluoxetine, given the long half-life of the parent and active metabolite (at least 5 weeks may be necessary).

Concomitant use of tricyclic antidepressants with drugs that can inhibit cytochrome P450 2D6 may require lower doses than usually prescribed for either the tricyclic antidepressant or the other drug. Furthermore, whenever one of these other drugs is withdrawn from cotherapy, an increased dose

of tricyclic antidepressant may be required. It is desirable to monitor TCA plasma levels whenever a TCA is going to be coadministered with another drug known to be an inhibitor of P450 2D6.

The effects of concomitant administration of LIMBITROL and other psychotropic drugs have not been evaluated. Sedative effects may be additive.

Cimetidine is reported to reduce hepatic metabolism of certain tricyclic antidepressants and benzodiazepines, thereby delaying elimination and increasing steady-state concentrations of these drugs. Clinically significant effects have been reported with the tricyclic antidepressants when used concomitantly with cimetidine (Tagamet).

The drug should be discontinued several days before elective surgery.

Concurrent administration of ECT and LIMBITROL should be limited to those patients for whom it is essential.

### **Pregnancy:**

#### Pregnancy Exposure Registry

There is a pregnancy registry that monitors pregnancy outcomes in women exposed to psychiatric medications, including LIMBITROL, during pregnancy. Healthcare providers are encouraged to register patients by calling the National Pregnancy Registry for Psychiatric Medications at 1-866-961-2388 or visiting online at <https://womensmentalhealth.org/pregnancyregistry/>.

#### Risk Summary

Neonates born to mothers using benzodiazepines late in pregnancy have been reported to experience symptoms of sedation and/or neonatal withdrawal (see **WARNINGS, Neonatal Sedation and Withdrawal Syndrome, and Clinical Considerations**). Available data from published observational studies of pregnant women exposed to benzodiazepines do not report a clear association with benzodiazepines and major birth defects (*see Data*).

The background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated risk of major birth defects and of miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2% to 4% and 15% to 20%, respectively.

#### Clinical Considerations

##### *Fetal/Neonatal Adverse Reactions*

Benzodiazepines cross the placenta and may produce respiratory depression, hypotonia and sedation in neonates. Monitor neonates exposed to LIMBITROL during pregnancy or labor for signs of sedation, respiratory depression, hypotonia, and feeding problems. Monitor neonates exposed to LIMBITROL during pregnancy for signs of withdrawal. Manage these neonates accordingly (see **WARNINGS, Neonatal Sedation and Withdrawal Syndrome**).

#### Data

##### *Human Data*



Published data from observational studies on the use of benzodiazepines during pregnancy do not report a clear association with benzodiazepines and major birth defects. Although early studies reported an increased risk of congenital malformations with diazepam and chlordiazepoxide, there was no consistent pattern noted. In addition, the majority of more recent case-control and cohort studies of benzodiazepine use during pregnancy, which were adjusted for confounding exposures to alcohol, tobacco and other medications, have not confirmed these findings.

### **Nursing Mothers:**

#### Risk Summary

It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. There are reports of sedation, poor feeding and poor weight gain in infants exposed to benzodiazepines through breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reaction, including sedation and withdrawal symptoms in breastfed infants, advise patients that breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with LIMBITROL.

***Pediatric Use:*** Safety and effectiveness in the pediatric population have not been established (see BOX WARNING and WARNINGS: Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Adolescents and Young Adults).

Anyone considering the use of Chlordiazepoxide and Amitriptyline Hydrochloride Tablets in a child or adolescent must balance the potential risks with the clinical need.

***Geriatric Use:*** In elderly and debilitated patients it is recommended that dosage be limited to the smallest effective amount to preclude the development of ataxia, oversedation, confusion or anticholinergic effects.

Of the total number of subjects in clinical studies of LIMBITROL, 74 individuals were 65 years and older. An additional 34 subjects were between 60 and 69 years of age. No overall differences in safety and effectiveness were observed between these subjects and younger subjects, and other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

The active ingredients in LIMBITROL are known to be substantially excreted by the kidney and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection and it may be useful to monitor renal function.

Sedating drugs may cause confusion and over-sedation in the elderly; elderly patients generally should be started on low doses of LIMBITROL and observed closely.

Clinical studies of LIMBITROL did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 years and older to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal or cardiac function and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

**ADVERSE REACTIONS:** Adverse reactions to LIMBITROL are those associated with the use

of either component alone. Most frequently reported were drowsiness, dry mouth, constipation, blurred vision, dizziness and bloating. Other side effects occurring less commonly included vivid dreams, impotence, tremor, confusion and nasal congestion. Many symptoms common to the depressive state, such as anorexia, fatigue, weakness, restlessness and lethargy, have been reported as side effects of treatment with both LIMBITROL and amitriptyline.

Granulocytopenia, jaundice and hepatic dysfunction of uncertain etiology have also been observed rarely with LIMBITROL. When treatment with LIMBITROL is prolonged, periodic blood counts and liver function tests are advisable.

**Note:** Included in the listing which follows are adverse reactions which have not been reported with LIMBITROL. However, they are included because they have been reported during therapy with one or both of the components or closely related drugs.

**Cardiovascular:** Hypotension, hypertension, tachycardia, palpitations, myocardial infarction, arrhythmias, heart block, stroke.

**Psychiatric:** Euphoria, apprehension, poor concentration, delusions, hallucinations, hypomania and increased or decreased libido.

**Neurologic:** Incoordination, ataxia, numbness, tingling and paresthesias of the extremities, extrapyramidal symptoms, syncope, changes in EEG patterns.

**Anticholinergic:** Disturbance of accommodation, paralytic ileus, urinary retention, dilatation of urinary tract.

**Allergic:** Skin rash, urticaria, photosensitization, edema of face and tongue, pruritus.

**Hematologic:** Bone marrow depression including agranulocytosis, eosinophilia, purpura, thrombocytopenia.

**Gastrointestinal:** Nausea, epigastric distress, vomiting, anorexia, stomatitis, peculiar taste, diarrhea, black tongue.

**Endocrine:** Testicular swelling and gynecomastia in the male, breast enlargement, galactorrhea and minor menstrual irregularities in the female, elevation and lowering of blood sugar levels, and syndrome of inappropriate ADH (antidiuretic hormone) secretion.

**Other:** Headache, weight gain or loss, increased perspiration, urinary frequency, mydriasis, jaundice, alopecia, parotid swelling.

## **DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

### **Controlled Substance**

Limbitrol contains chlordiazepoxide, a Schedule IV controlled substance.

### **Abuse**

LIMBITROL is a benzodiazepine and a CNS depressant with a potential for abuse and addiction. Abuse is the intentional, non-therapeutic use of a drug, even once, for its desirable psychological or physiological effects. Misuse is the intentional use, for therapeutic purposes, of a drug by an individual in a way other than prescribed by a health care provider or for whom it was not prescribed. Drug addiction is a cluster of behavioral, cognitive, and physiological phenomena that may include a strong desire to take the drug, difficulties in controlling drug use (e.g., continuing drug use despite harmful consequences, giving a higher priority to drug use than other activities and obligations), and possible tolerance or physical dependence. Even taking benzodiazepines as prescribed may put patients at risk for abuse and misuse of their medication. Abuse and misuse of benzodiazepines may lead to addiction.

Abuse and misuse of benzodiazepines often (but not always) involve the use of doses greater than the maximum recommended dosage and commonly involve concomitant use of other medications, alcohol, and/or illicit substances, which is associated with an increased frequency of serious adverse outcomes, including respiratory depression, overdose, or death. Benzodiazepines are often sought by individuals who abuse drugs and other substances, and by individuals with addictive disorders (see WARNINGS: Abuse, Misuse, and Addiction).

The following adverse reactions have occurred with benzodiazepine abuse and/or misuse: abdominal pain, amnesia, anorexia, anxiety, aggression, ataxia, blurred vision, confusion, depression, disinhibition, disorientation, dizziness, euphoria, impaired concentration and memory, indigestion, irritability, muscle pain, slurred speech, tremors, and vertigo.

The following severe adverse reactions have occurred with benzodiazepine abuse and/or misuse: delirium, paranoia, suicidal ideation and behavior, seizures, coma, breathing difficulty, and death. Death is more often associated with polysubstance use (especially benzodiazepines with other CNS depressants such as opioids and alcohol).

## **Dependence**

### **Physical Dependence**

LIMBITROL may produce physical dependence from continued therapy. Physical dependence is a state that develops as a result of physiological adaptation in response to repeated drug use, manifested by withdrawal signs and symptoms after abrupt discontinuation or a significant dose reduction of a drug. Abrupt discontinuation or rapid dosage reduction of benzodiazepines or administration of flumazenil, a benzodiazepine antagonist, may precipitate acute withdrawal reactions, including seizures, which can be life-threatening. Patients at an increased risk of withdrawal adverse reactions after benzodiazepine discontinuation or rapid dosage reduction include those who take higher dosages (i.e., higher and/or more frequent doses) and those who have had longer durations of use (see WARNINGS: Dependence and Withdrawal Reactions).

To reduce the risk of withdrawal reactions, use a gradual taper to discontinue LIMBITROL or reduce the dosage (see DOSAGE and ADMINISTRATION: Discontinuation or Dosage Reduction of LIMBITROL and WARNINGS: Dependence and Withdrawal Reactions).

### *Acute Withdrawal Signs and Symptoms*

Acute withdrawal signs and symptoms associated with benzodiazepines have included abnormal involuntary movements, anxiety, blurred vision, depersonalization, depression, derealization, dizziness, fatigue, gastrointestinal adverse reactions (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss, decreased appetite), headache, hyperacusis, hypertension, irritability, insomnia, memory impairment, muscle pain and stiffness, panic attacks, photophobia, restlessness, tachycardia, and tremor. More severe acute withdrawal signs and symptoms, including life-threatening reactions, have included catatonia, convulsions, delirium tremens, depression, hallucinations, mania, psychosis, seizures, and suicidality.

#### *Protracted Withdrawal Syndrome*

Protracted withdrawal syndrome associated with benzodiazepines is characterized by anxiety, cognitive impairment, depression, insomnia, formication, motor symptoms (e.g., weakness, tremor, muscle twitches), paresthesia, and tinnitus that persists beyond 4 to 6 weeks after initial benzodiazepine withdrawal. Protracted withdrawal symptoms may last weeks to more than 12 months. As a result, there may be difficulty in differentiating withdrawal symptoms from potential re-emergence or continuation of symptoms for which the benzodiazepine was being used.

#### Tolerance

Tolerance to LIMBITROL may develop from continued therapy. Tolerance is a physiological state characterized by a reduced response to a drug after repeated administration (i.e., a higher dose of a drug is required to produce the same effect that was once obtained at a lower dose). Tolerance to the therapeutic effect of LIMBITROL may develop; however, little tolerance develops to the amnestic reactions and other cognitive impairments caused by benzodiazepines.

#### **OVERDOSAGE:**

Overdosage of LIMBITROL, which contains a benzodiazepine (chlordiazepoxide) and a tricyclic antidepressant (amitriptyline hydrochloride), may manifest signs and symptoms related to either of its components. Deaths may occur from overdosage with this class of drugs. Multiple drug ingestion (including alcohol) is common in deliberate tricyclic antidepressant overdose. Signs and symptoms of toxicity develop rapidly after tricyclic antidepressant overdose.

Critical manifestations of tricyclic antidepressant overdose include cardiac dysrhythmias, severe hypotension, convulsions and CNS depression, including coma. Changes in the electrocardiogram, particularly in QRS axis or width, are clinically significant indicators of tricyclic antidepressant toxicity. Obtain an ECG and immediately initiate cardiac monitoring; hospital monitoring is required as soon as possible.

Other signs of overdosage may include confusion, disturbed concentration, transient visual hallucinations, dilated pupils, agitation, hyperactive reflexes, stupor, drowsiness, muscle rigidity, vomiting, hypothermia, hyperpyrexia or any of the symptoms listed under ADVERSE REACTIONS.

Overdosage of benzodiazepines is characterized by central nervous system depression ranging from drowsiness to coma. In mild to moderate cases, symptoms can include drowsiness, confusion, dysarthria, lethargy, hypnotic state, diminished reflexes, ataxia, and hypotonia. Rarely,

paradoxical or disinhibitory reactions (including agitation, irritability, impulsivity, violent behavior, confusion, restlessness, excitement, and talkativeness) may occur. In severe overdose cases, patients may develop respiratory depression and coma. Overdosage of benzodiazepines in combination with other CNS depressants (including alcohol and opioids) may be fatal (see WARNINGS: Abuse, Misuse, and Addiction). Markedly abnormal (lowered or elevated) blood pressure, heart rate, or respiratory rate raise the concern that additional drugs and/or alcohol are involved in the overdose.

In managing benzodiazepine overdose, employ general supportive measures, including intravenous fluids and airway management. Flumazenil, a specific benzodiazepine receptor antagonist indicated for the complete or partial reversal of the sedative effects of benzodiazepines in the management of benzodiazepine overdose, can lead to withdrawal and adverse reactions, including seizures with LIMBITROL because overdose with amitriptyline and other tricyclic and tetracyclic antidepressants increases the risk of seizures. Seizure risk is also increased in patients with long-term benzodiazepine use and physical dependency. The risk of withdrawal seizures with flumazenil use also may be increased in patients with epilepsy. Flumazenil is contraindicated in patients who have received a benzodiazepine for control of a potentially life-threatening condition (e.g., status epilepticus).

Contact the Poison Help line (1-800-222-1222) or medical toxicologist for additional overdose management recommendations.

#### **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:**

Optimum dosage varies with the severity of the symptoms and the response of the individual patient. When a satisfactory response is obtained, dosage should be reduced to the smallest amount needed to maintain the remission. The larger portion of the total daily dose may be taken at bedtime. In some patients, a single dose at bedtime may be sufficient. In general, lower dosages are recommended for elderly patients.

LIMBITROL DS (double strength) Tablets are recommended in an initial dosage of 3 or 4 tablets daily in divided doses; this may be increased to 6 tablets daily as required. Some patients respond to smaller doses and can be maintained on 2 tablets daily.

LIMBITROL Tablets in an initial dosage of 3 or 4 tablets daily in divided doses may be satisfactory in patients who do not tolerate higher doses.

#### **Screen for Bipolar Disorder Prior to Starting LIMBITROL**

Prior to initiating treatment with LIMBITROL or another antidepressant, screen patients for a personal or family history of bipolar disorder, mania, or hypomania (see WARNINGS: Activation of Mania or Hypomania).

#### **Discontinuation or Dosage Reduction of LIMBITROL**

To reduce the risk of withdrawal reactions, use a gradual taper to discontinue LIMBITROL or reduce the dosage. If a patient develops withdrawal reactions, consider pausing the taper or increasing the dosage to the previous tapered dosage level. Subsequently decrease the dosage more slowly (see WARNINGS: Dependence and Withdrawal Reactions and DRUG ABUSE AND

DEPENDENCE: Dependence).

**HOW SUPPLIED:** *LIMBITROL DS (double strength) Tablets* are available as white, film-coated, biconvex tablets containing 10 mg clordiazepoxide and 25 mg amitriptyline (as the hydrochloride salt) in bottles of 100 (NDC 23155-562-01). Each tablet is engraved “V 3806” on one side.

*LIMBITROL Tablets* are available as blue, film-coated, biconvex tablets containing 5 mg clordiazepoxide and 12.5 mg amitriptyline (as the hydrochloride salt) in bottles of 100 (NDC 23155-563-01). Each tablet is engraved “V 3805” on one side.

Store at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F). [See USP controlled room temperature.] Store in a dry place. Keep in a tightly closed, child-resistant container and out of the light.

Distributed by:

**Avet Pharmaceuticals Inc.**

East Brunswick, NJ 08816

1.866.901.DRUG (3784)



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**MEDICATION GUIDE**  
**Limbitrol (LIM-bi-trol)**  
**(chlordiazepoxide and amitriptyline hydrochloride)**  
**tablets, C-IV**

**What is the most important information I should know about Limbitrol?**

- **Limbitrol is a benzodiazepine medicine. Taking benzodiazepines with opioid medicines, alcohol, or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants (including street drugs) can cause severe drowsiness, breathing problems (respiratory depression), coma and death.** Get emergency help right away if any of the following happens:
  - shallow or slowed breathing
  - breathing stops (which may lead to the heart stopping)
  - excessive sleepiness (sedation)Do not drive or operate heavy machinery until you know how taking Limbitrol with opioids affects you.
- **Risk of abuse, misuse, and addiction.** There is a risk of abuse, misuse, and addiction with benzodiazepines, including Limbitrol, which can lead to overdose and serious side effects including coma and death.
  - **Serious side effects including coma and death have happened in people who have abused or misused benzodiazepines, including Limbitrol.** These serious side effects may also include delirium, paranoia, suicidal thoughts or actions, seizures, and difficulty breathing. **Call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you get any of these serious side effects.**
  - **You can develop an addiction even if you take Limbitrol exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider.**
  - **Take Limbitrol exactly as your healthcare provider prescribed.**
  - Do not share your Limbitrol with other people.
  - Keep Limbitrol in a safe place and away from children.
- **Physical dependence and withdrawal reactions.** Limbitrol can cause physical dependence and withdrawal reactions.
  - **Do not suddenly stop taking Limbitrol.** Stopping Limbitrol suddenly can cause serious and life-threatening side effects, including, unusual movements, responses, or expressions, seizures, sudden and severe mental or nervous system changes, depression, seeing or hearing things that others do not see or hear, an extreme increase in activity or talking, losing touch with reality, and suicidal thoughts or actions. **Call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you get any of these symptoms.**
  - **Some people who suddenly stop benzodiazepines have symptoms that can last for several weeks to more than 12 months,** including, anxiety, trouble remembering, learning, or concentrating, depression, problems sleeping, feeling like insects are crawling under your skin, weakness, shaking, muscle twitching, burning or prickling feeling in your hands, arms, legs or feet, and ringing in your ears.
  - Physical dependence is not the same as drug addiction. Your healthcare provider can tell you more about the differences between physical dependence and drug addiction.
  - Do not take more Limbitrol than prescribed or take Limbitrol for longer than prescribed.
- **Increased risk of suicidal thoughts or actions in children, adolescents and young adults.** Limbitrol and other antidepressant medicines may increase suicidal thoughts or actions in some people 24 years of age and younger, **especially within the first few months of treatment or when the dose is changed.**

- **Depression or other serious mental illnesses are the most important cause of suicidal thoughts of actions. Some people may have a higher risk of having suicidal thoughts or actions.** These include people who have (or have a family history of) depression, bipolar illness (also called manic-depressive illness), or a history of suicidal thoughts or actions.

**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 or if you or your family member develop suicidal thoughts or actions. This is very important when an antidepressant medicine is started or when the dose is changed.
- Call your healthcare provider right away to report new or sudden changes in mood, behavior, thoughts, or feelings or if you or your family member develop suicidal thoughts or actions.
- Keep all follow-up visits with your healthcare provider and call between visits if you are worried about symptoms.

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

- thoughts about suicide or dying
- new or worse depression
- feeling agitated or restless
- trouble sleeping
- acting aggressive, being angry or violent
- other unusual changes in behavior or mood
- attempts to commit suicide
- new or worse anxiety or irritability
- an extreme increase in activity and talking
- new or worse panic attacks
- acting on dangerous impulses

**What is Limbitrol?**

- Limbitrol is a prescription medicine used to treat moderate to severe depression that can happen with moderate to severe anxiety.
- **Limbitrol is a federal controlled substance (C-IV) because it contains chlordiazepoxide that can be abused or lead to dependence.** Keep Limbitrol in a safe place to prevent misuse and abuse. Selling or giving away Limbitrol may harm others, and is against the law. Tell your healthcare provider if you have ever abused or been dependent on alcohol, prescription medicines or street drugs.
- It is not known if Limbitrol is safe and effective in children.

**Do not take Limbitrol if you:**

- are allergic to chlordiazepoxide and amitriptyline hydrochloride or any of the ingredients in Limbitrol. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in Limbitrol.
- have had an allergic to other benzodiazepines or tricyclic antidepressant medicines
- take a medicine called a Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor (MAOI). Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if you take an MAOI.
- are recovering from a heart attack

**Before you take Limbitrol, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:**

- have or have a family history of suicide, bipolar disorder, or depression
- have a history of drug or alcohol abuse or addiction
- have eye problems
- have problems urinating or emptying your bladder
- have kidney or liver problems
- have or had heart problems, including heart attack or a stroke



- have or have had seizures
  - have a thyroid problem
  - plan to have surgery
  - receive electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)
  - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Taking Limbitrol late in pregnancy may cause your baby to have symptoms of sedation (breathing problems, sluggishness, low muscle tone), and/or withdrawal symptoms (jitteriness, irritability, restlessness, shaking, excessive crying, feeding problems).
  - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you become pregnant or think you are pregnant during treatment with Limbitrol.
  - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take Limbitrol during pregnancy. The purpose of the registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. If you become pregnant during treatment with Limbitrol, talk to your healthcare provider about registering with the National Pregnancy Registry for Psychiatric Medications. You can register by calling 1-866-961-2388 or visiting <https://womansmentalhealth.org/pregnancyregistry/>.
  - are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if Limbitrol passes into your breastmilk.
    - Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed our baby if you take Limbitrol.
    - Breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with Limbitrol.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Taking Limbitrol with certain other medicines can cause side effects or affect how well Limbitrol or the other medicines work.

Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure if you are taking any of these medicines. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take Limbitrol with your other medicines.

Do not start or stop any other medicines during treatment with Limbitrol without talking to your healthcare provider first. Stopping Limbitrol suddenly may cause you to have serious side effects. See, **“What are the possible side effects of Limbitrol?”**

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

#### **How should I take Limbitrol?**

- Take Limbitrol exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.
- If you take too much Limbitrol, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest emergency room right away.

#### **What are the possible side effects of Limbitrol?**

**Limbitrol may cause serious side effects, including:**

- See **“What is the most important information I should know about Limbitrol?”**
- **Limbitrol can make you sleepy or dizzy, and can slow your thinking and motor skills.**
  - Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or do other dangerous activities until you know how Limbitrol affects you.

- **Do not drink alcohol or take other drugs that may make you sleepy or dizzy while taking Limbitrol without first talking to your healthcare provider.** When taken with alcohol or drugs that cause sleepiness or dizziness, Limbitrol may make your sleepiness or dizziness much worse.

**The most common side effects of Limbitrol include:**

- drowsiness
- constipation
- dizziness
- dry mouth
- blurred vision
- bloating

These are not all the possible side effects of Limbitrol.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**How should I store Limbitrol?**

- Store Limbitrol at room temperature between 68°F to 77°F (20° to 25°C).
- Store in a dry place.
- Keep Limbitrol in a tightly closed, child-resistant container and out of the light.

Keep Limbitrol and all medicines out of the reach of children.

**General information about the safe and effective use of Limbitrol.**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use Limbitrol for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give Limbitrol to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about Limbitrol that is written for health professionals.

**What are the ingredients in Limbitrol?**

**Active ingredient:** chlordiazepoxide, amitriptyline (as the hydrochloride salt)

**Inactive ingredients:** corn starch, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, polyethylene glycol, povidone and propylene glycol; Limbitrol tablets contain the following colorant system-FD&C Blue No. 1, aluminum lake and titanium dioxide. Limbitrol DS tablets contain titanium dioxide.

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For more information, go to [www.avetpharma.com](http://www.avetpharma.com) or call 1.866.901.DRUG (3784)

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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