

Triptafen : hawfinch.

Contributors

Allen & Hanburys

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



HAWFINCH.

Triptafen

(amitriptyline hydrochloride BP and perphenazine BP)

For the comprehensive treatment of depression and anxiety

PRESENTATION AND BASIC NHS COST

Triptafen-Minor Tablets each contain amitriptyline hydrochloride BP 10mg and perphenazine BP 2mg. Strip-packed in cartons of 100 – £2.40. PL 0045/5089.

Triptafen-DA Tablets each contain amitriptyline hydrochloride BP 25mg and perphenazine BP 2mg. Strip-packed in cartons of 100 – £2.72. PL 0045/5087.

Triptafen-Forte Tablets each contain amitriptyline hydrochloride BP 25mg and perphenazine BP 4mg. Strip-packed in cartons of 100 – £3.02. PL 0045/5088.

INDICATIONS

Triptafen preparations are used for the treatment of depression and anxiety: Triptafen-Minor when anxiety is the obvious feature; Triptafen-DA when depression predominates; and Triptafen-Forte when agitation is a feature.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The usual dose for all Triptafen preparations is 1 tablet 3 times daily with an additional tablet at night, if necessary. Subsequently dosage may be individualised to suit the response but the total dose of perphenazine should not exceed 24mg daily.

Children: Unsuitable for children under the age of 14 years.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS, WARNINGS, ETC.

Contra-indicated in the presence of glaucoma, urinary retention, congestive heart failure, coronary artery disease, epilepsy, severe liver disease, and leucopenia. They should not be given with other antidepressants, particularly monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or within 2 weeks of withdrawal of MAOIs, or with drugs liable to cause bone-marrow depression.

Unnecessary administration of drugs during the first trimester of pregnancy is undesirable. Side effects include: dry mouth, blurred vision, tachycardia, drowsiness and, more rarely, insomnia, slight fall in blood pressure, tremor and extrapyramidal effects. Idiosyncratic effects include pruritus, nausea, diarrhoea and indigestion. Persistent oral dyskinesia has been reported occasionally, particularly in elderly female patients, after longterm treatment with potent phenothiazine drugs, including perphenazine.

LEGAL CATEGORY

Prescription only medicine.

SELECTED BIRDS OF BRITAIN

HAWFINCH

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

The distinctive large-headed, short-tailed hawfinch is present in Britain throughout the year. Found in England, southerly parts of Scotland and locally in Wales. A shy bird, it avoids man but is not uncommon in gardens. Kernels from cherry and plum stones are obtained by the powerful bill which cracks them open. Seeds, peas, berries and insects are also taken. In flight gives a 'tsick' call; the song is quiet, jerky and not often heard. In courtship the male drops his wings, puffs his feathers and offers food. The female builds a nest from roots and twigs, lined with fibres and hair, on a horizontal branch high in a bush, often an evergreen. 4-6 buff or bluish-white eggs, with dark streaks and marks, are laid. Both sexes reach 7 inches (18 cm) in length. The female is duller in appearance.

(Illustration from "A History of British Birds" by F. O. Morris)

Full prescribing information is available on request.
Triptafen is a trade mark of
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