

Triptafen : crossbill.

Contributors

Allen & Hanburys

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CROSSBILL.

Triptafen

(amitriptyline hydrochloride BP and perphenazine BP)

For the comprehensive treatment of depression and anxiety

PRESENTATION AND BASIC NHS COST

Triptafen-Minor Tablets are light salmon-pink and sugar coated with each containing amitriptyline hydrochloride BP 10mg and perphenazine BP 2mg; strip-packed in cartons of 100 - £2.40. Coded AH/2D.

Triptafen-DA Tablets are pink and sugar coated with each containing amitriptyline hydrochloride BP 25mg and perphenazine BP 2mg; strip-packed in cartons of 100 - £2.72. Coded AH/1D.

Triptafen-Forte Tablets are red and sugar coated with each containing amitriptyline hydrochloride BP 25mg and perphenazine BP 4mg; strip-packed in cartons of 100 - £3.02. Coded AH/4D.

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 long-term treatment with potent phenothiazine drugs, including perphenazine.

LEGAL CATEGORY

Prescription only medicine

SELECTED BIRDS OF BRITAIN

CROSSBILL

Loxia curvirostra

This member of the finch family is present throughout the year in parts of Britain, notably in pine forests in the Scottish Highlands. Uniquely for this country it has the tips of its bill crossed so that it can extract seeds from fir cones. Its dependence upon coniferous and especially spruce crops causes large irruptions from Scandinavia into the United Kingdom from time to time. During flight a "chit-chit" note is heard. The song is a warbling twitter rather like that of the Greenfinch. The female builds the nest high in a conifer, using twigs as base material and lining the cup with moss and grasses. 3-5 eggs with a pale green background, speckled with red-brown, are produced. Both sexes vary in their colourings, but the male is usually red and the female yellow-green. They attain 6½ inches (16 cm) in length.

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

PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS

Triptafen-Minor Tablets - 0045/5089; Triptafen-DA Tablets - 0045/5087; Triptafen-Forte Tablets - 0045/5088.

Further information is available on request.
Triptafen is a trade mark of
ALLEN & HANBURYS LTD LONDON E2 6LA



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