

**Triptafen : redstart.**

**Contributors**

Allen & Hanburys

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REDSTART.

# 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

### REDSTART

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

This handsome small bird is a summer visitor to Britain, breeding mainly in the North and West of the country. It may be found in most habitats, but older woodland is preferred. The principal food is insects caught on the wing; spiders, larvae and some berries are also taken. The song is a warbled jingle followed by a twittering happy ending. The call is a "tweet". The brightly coloured tail is constantly in motion as indeed is the bird, flitting from tree to tree in search of prey. The female builds the nest in a hole, often in an ancient tree, although ruins or rocks may provide nesting sites. The structure is made from small roots and grass, lined with hair or feathers. Five to eight light blue eggs are laid. The female is browner than the male, has no white on the forehead and has paler underparts. These birds reach a length of 5½ inches (14cm).

(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 & HANBURY LTD LONDON E2 6LA

