Dothiepin Hydrochloride

CAS Number: 897-15-4
Molecular Weight: 331.9 g/mol
Molecular Formula: C19H21NS
N-dimethylpropan-1-amine hydrochloride

DRUG DESCRIPTION

Dothiepin is used to treat depression. Dothiepin (Dothiepin Hydrochloride) is a tricyclic antidepressant which has anxiolytic properties.

Dothiepin is in the category of drugs referred to as tricyclic antidepressants. These are used to treat depression. When an individual experiences depression, the amount of nonadrenaline and serotonin released by the brain is decreased. Dothiepin works by helping to block the return of these chemicals to the brain, allowing an individual to continue to feel up-lifted, instead of depressed. In some instances, Dothiepin is used as a painkiller to treat severe nerve pain.

Dosulepin is relatively mild and is used for low-level anxiety depression and similar disorders as well as the treatment of chronic and ongoing pain disorders, particularly where insomnia and/or loss of appetite are present. It can take between two and four weeks of regular usage to become effective; it is often started at a low level and the dosage increased if this is ineffective. The drug causes drowsiness as a side-effect, and this may be used as part of the treatment, since anxiety-depressive patients may have difficulty sleeping; it can also be combined with other drugs such as temazepam.

DOSAGE

Adults: Initially 75 mg/day in divided doses or as a single dose at night, increasing to 150 mg/day. In certain circumstances, e.g. in hospital use or unresponsive patients, dosages up to 300 mg daily have been used.
Suggested regimens: 25 or 50 mg three times daily or, alternatively, 75 or 150 mg as a single dose at night. Should the regimen of 150 mg as a single night-time dose be adopted, it is better to give a smaller dose for the first few days.

Elderly: 50 to 75 mg daily initially. As with any antidepressant, the initial dose should be increased with caution under close supervision. Half the normal adult dose may be sufficient to produce a satisfactory clinical response.

Children: Not recommended.

Take this medicine as directed. Do not stop taking this medicine abruptly without consulting with your doctor.

**SIDES EFFECTS**

They are many side effects that this medication can bring on. They can range from severe to less severe. The side effects that are less severe include: dizziness, dry mouth, constipation, feeling sleepy, and tiredness. The symptoms that might require immediate medical attention include: rash, blurred vision, high temperature, sore throat, yellowish eyes and skin, and changes in your heart beats.

The most common side-effects are drowsiness and dry mouth as well as dry eyes. Other less common side-effects may include:

* Constipation
* Abnormally large stools
* Blurred vision
* Tachycardia
* Urinary retention
* tremors, especially of the hands
* Blood disorders
* Hypotension
* Sexual dysfunction
* Sweating
* Increased sensitivity to sunlight and increased vulnerability to sunburn

These side-effects cease when treatment ceases. Alcohol should be avoided whilst taking dosulepin as it may increase some side-effects.

Whilst dosulepin is not addictive, it should not be stopped suddenly as there is a risk of initial withdrawal symptoms which may be mistaken for some of the original indications for the drug:
* Nausea
* Vomiting
* Loss of appetite
* Headache
* Giddiness
* Chills
* Insomnia
* Anxiety

PRECAUTIONS

If you are going to take this medication, you doctor needs to know if you have a history of thyroids, prostate issues, glaucoma, epilepsy, heart, kidney or liver problems. This drug is not recommended for children, or anyone who has recently suffered from a heart attack or irregular heart rhythms.

There are some drugs that can possibly interact with medications. If you are taking cimeidenie, warfarin, subutramine, and antihistamines, you need to advise
your doctor first. You should also not take this drug if you are taking any MAO inhibitors, as this can also have a reaction.

If you are pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or breast-feeding, you need to inform your doctor immediately as this medication could have a negative reaction to your baby or unborn child. There is some evidence that suggests that if you take this drug while pregnant it increases the chance of your child being born with birth defects.

This medication can make you dizzy and drowsy so you should avoid driving a car or using machinery while on this medication. You should also avoid drinking alcohol while taking this medication as it can increase the depressant effects of the medication.

There is also some concern for individuals who suffer from epilepsy taking this drug. As at times this drug may lower an individual seizure onset, and cause them to go into shock or have convulsions. Again, only a doctor can decide which drug is best suited for the conditions that you are experiencing.

**INTERACTION**

The drug can interact dangerously with vasoconstrictors and should not be taken in combination with phenylephrine or adrenaline in particular.

The sedative effects of other CNS depressants (benzodiazepines such as diazepam and lorazepam, sedative antihistamines, opiates, etc.) may be increased. This drug should not be started within 2 weeks of stopping a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) antidepressant, and should not be co-administered with
any selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressant such as fluoxetine), or any medication which affects the electrical impulses to the heart (e.g. astemizole, halofantrine or terfenadine). The drug is not recommended for use by children nor to be taken in combination with some other drugs, including herbal remedies.

PHARMALOGY

We gave 12 healthy male volunteers single doses of 50 mg fluvoxamine, 100 mg fluvoxamine, 75 mg dothiepin, and placebo in a double-blind crossover study. Subjects completed a test battery that was sensitive to the behaviourally toxic effects of psychoactive drugs prior to dosing, and then at 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 h after dose. The test battery included tasks of choice reaction time, tracking, critical flicker fusion threshold, and memory scanning. Subjective feelings were assessed using the line analogue rating scales and the Milford-Epworth sleepiness scale. Daytime activity was recorded by means of wrist actigraphy. The results show that the positive internal control (dothiepin) had a sedative effect in that it impaired performance in the majority of the tests and also reduced daytime activity. Both doses of fluvoxamine remained relatively neutral throughout and did not impair psychomotor performance or cognitive ability in any of the tests. These results indicate that fluvoxamine may be a safe and efficacious antidepressant for outpatients who wish to carry on with the tasks of everyday life without being sedated.

CONSUMER INFORMATION
What is it?

Dothiepin is in the category of drugs referred to as tricyclic antidepressants. These are used to treat depression. When an individual experiences depression, the amount of nonadrenaline and serotonin released by the brain is decreased. Dothiepin works by helping to block the return of these chemicals to the brain, allowing an individual to continue to feel uplifted, instead of depressed. In some instances, Dothiepin is used as a painkiller to treat severe nerve pain.

How to take it?

Dothiepin needs to be prescribed by your doctor. It comes in tablet, capsule and liquid form. You should take the tablet or capsule with a full glass of water. If you are taking the liquid version then you must first shake the bottle and measure out the correct dosage. A doctor will usually start an individual on the 75mg dose per day; a person should take this medication before going to bed. Based on an individual’s response, your doctor can elect to increase the dosage. Elderly individuals on this medication are usually started on the 50mg dose to begin with, as the increase of side effects for them.

Warnings and Precautions

If you are going to take this medication, you doctor needs to know if you have a history of thyroids, prostate issues, glaucoma, epilepsy, heart, kidney or liver problems. This drug is not recommended for children, or anyone who has recently suffered from a heart attack or irregular heart rhythms.

What to do if you take Missed Dose of Dothiepin?
Take your next dose as soon as you remember. If it is time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go
back to your regular schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one. Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of the reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Throw away any medication that is outdated or no longer needed.

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