

# Tricyclic Antidepressants

## Nortriptyline or Desipramine

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### What it does:

Nortriptyline or desipramine helps relieve pain and discomfort linked with nerve pain. This medication has other uses also, such as treating depression when taken at higher doses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

### How it works:

This medication works in the brain to reduce the feeling of nerve pain.

### How and when to take it:

The dose is usually taken at bedtime, but should be taken exactly as directed by your doctor. Do not increase, decrease or stop taking this medication without talking to your doctor first.

### What to do if you miss a dose:

If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If you remember within 6 hours of your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your original schedule.

**DO NOT DOUBLE YOUR DOSE TO MAKE UP FOR A MISSED ONE.**

### Possible side effects:

Some common side effects are: drowsiness, anxiety, excitement, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, dry mouth and changes in appetite or weight.

Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or constant: constipation, blurred vision, changes in sex drive or ability, or too much sweating.

Call your doctor immediately if you experience jaw/neck/back muscle spasms, slow or difficult speech, uncontrollable movements (such as tremors or inability to sit still), fever, skin rash, difficulty breathing or irregular heartbeat.

### Relation to diet:

Nortriptyline or desipramine can be taken with or without food. Avoid alcohol while taking this medication.



Use the space below to write down why you are taking this medication and other notes.

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