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2. Amitriptyline/perphenazine

## Amitriptyline and perphenazine

**Generic name:** amitriptyline and perphenazine [ *a-mee-TRIP-ti-leen-and-per-FEN-a-zeen* ]

**Brand names:** Etrafon 2-10, Etrafon 2-25, Etrafon Forte, Triavil

**Dosage form:** oral tablet (10 mg-2 mg; 10 mg-4 mg; 25 mg-2 mg; 25 mg-4 mg; 50 mg-4 mg)

**Drug class:** [Psychotherapeutic combinations](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on May 27, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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### What is amitriptyline and perphenazine?

[Amitriptyline](#) is a tricyclic antidepressant. Perphenazine is a phenothiazine (feen-oh-THYE-a-zeen).

Amitriptyline and perphenazine is a combination medicine used to treat depression, anxiety, and agitation.

Amitriptyline and perphenazine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

### Amitriptyline and perphenazine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction:** hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

**Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor**, such as: mood or behavior changes, anxiety, [panic attacks](#), trouble sleeping, or if you feel impulsive, irritable, agitated, hostile, aggressive, restless, hyperactive (mentally or physically), more depressed, or have thoughts about suicide or hurting yourself.

**High doses or long-term use of amitriptyline and perphenazine can cause a serious movement disorder that may not be reversible.** The longer you use amitriptyline and perphenazine, the more likely you are to develop this disorder, especially if you are a woman or an older adult.

**Amitriptyline and perphenazine may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:**

- uncontrolled muscle movements in your face (chewing, lip smacking, frowning, tongue movement, blinking or eye movement);
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- fast, slow, or uneven heart rate;
- chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder;
- easy bruising, unusual bleeding, purple or red spots under your skin;

- dark urine, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- a seizure (convulsions);
- **low white blood cell counts**--fever, chills, sore throat, mouth sores, skin sores, sore throat, cough, trouble breathing; or
- **severe nervous system reaction**--very stiff (rigid) muscles, high fever, sweating, confusion, fast or uneven heartbeats, tremors, fainting.

**Common side effects of amitriptyline and perphenazine may include:**

- drowsiness;
- [high blood pressure](#);
- problems with speech;
- involuntary muscle movements;
- feeling restless or unable to sit still;
- dry mouth;
- headache; or
- breast changes.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Amitriptyline / perphenazine side effects](#) (more detail)

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# Warnings

You should not take this medicine if you have if you recently had a heart attack, or if you have recently used alcohol, sedatives, tranquilizers, or other narcotic medications. Amitriptyline and perphenazine is not approved for use in older adults with dementia-related psychosis.

**Do not use this medicine if you have used an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days**, such as [isocarboxazid](#), linezolid, [methylene blue](#) injection, phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline, or [tranylcypromine](#).

Some young people have thoughts about suicide when first taking an antidepressant. Stay alert to changes in your mood or symptoms. **Report any new or worsening symptoms to your doctor.**

Call your doctor at once if you have twitching or uncontrollable movements of your eyes, lips, tongue, face, arms, or legs. These could be early signs of dangerous side effects.

## Before taking this medicine

You should not use amitriptyline and perphenazine if you are allergic to amitriptyline or perphenazine, or if:

- you have recently had a heart attack; or
- you have recently used alcohol, sedatives, tranquilizers, or opioid medications.

This medicine may increase the risk of death in older adults with dementia-related psychosis and is not approved for this use.

**Do not use amitriptyline and perphenazine if you have used an MAO inhibitor in the past 14 days.** A dangerous [drug interaction](#) could occur. MAO inhibitors include isocarboxazid, linezolid, methylene blue injection, phenelzine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine, and others.

**Tell your doctor if you have used an "SSRI" antidepressant in the past 5 weeks**, such as citalopram, [escitalopram](#), fluoxetine (Prozac), fluvoxamine, paroxetine, sertraline (Zoloft), trazodone, or vilazodone.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- glaucoma;
- [bipolar disorder](#) (manic-depression), [schizophrenia](#) or other mental illness;
- epilepsy or other seizure disorder;
- urination problems;
- heart problems;
- a heart attack or stroke;
- a thyroid disorder;
- [liver disease](#); or
- [breast cancer](#).

Some young people have thoughts about suicide when first taking an antidepressant. Your doctor should check your progress at regular visits. Your family or other caregivers should also be alert to changes in your mood or symptoms.

**Taking antipsychotic medicine in the last 3 months of pregnancy may cause breathing problems, feeding problems, or withdrawal symptoms in the newborn.** If you get pregnant, tell your doctor right away. **Do not stop taking amitriptyline and perphenazine without your doctor's advice.**

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

Do not give this medicine to anyone under 18 years old without medical advice.

## How should I take amitriptyline and perphenazine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

It may take up to 4 weeks before your symptoms improve. Keep using the medication as directed and tell your doctor if your symptoms do not improve.

While using this medicine, you may need frequent medical tests.

If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using amitriptyline and perphenazine. You may need to stop using the medicine for a short time.

**Do not stop using this medicine suddenly after long-term use**, or you could have unpleasant withdrawal symptoms. Ask your doctor how to safely stop using amitriptyline and perphenazine.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

 [Detailed Amitriptyline / perphenazine dosage information](#)

## What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. **Do not** take two doses at one time.

## What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222. **An overdose of amitriptyline and perphenazine can be fatal.**

Overdose symptoms may include extreme drowsiness, confusion, agitation, hallucinations, vomiting, feeling hot or cold, muscle stiffness, dilated pupils, or coma.

## What should I avoid while taking amitriptyline and perphenazine?

**Do not drink alcohol.** Dangerous side effects or death can occur.

amitriptyline and perphenazine may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert. Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy. Dizziness or drowsiness can cause falls, accidents, or severe injuries.

Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds. Perphenazine can make you sunburn more easily. Wear protective clothing

and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

## What other drugs will affect amitriptyline and perphenazine?

Using amitriptyline and perphenazine with other drugs that make you drowsy can worsen this effect. Ask your doctor before using opioid medication, a sleeping pill, a muscle relaxer, or medicine for anxiety or seizures.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- other [antidepressants](#) or medicine to treat anxiety, mood disorders, or mental illness;
- cimetidine;
- guanethidine;
- cold or allergy medicine (Benadryl and others);
- medicine to treat [Parkinson's disease](#);
- medicine to treat stomach problems, [motion sickness](#), or [irritable bowel syndrome](#);
- medicine to treat [overactive bladder](#);
- bronchodilator asthma medication;
- heart rhythm medicine; or
- seizure medication.

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect amitriptyline and perphenazine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Amitriptyline / perphenazine drug interactions](#) (more detail)

## Does amitriptyline/perphenazine interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

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**Patient resources**

- [Perphenazine and amitriptyline advanced reading](#)

**Other brands**

[Duo-Vil](#), [Etrafon](#)

**Professional resources**

- [Perphenazine Amitriptyline prescribing information](#)

**Related treatment guides**

- [Depression](#)
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**Further information**

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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**DRUG STATUS**

<b>Availability</b>		
Rx	Prescription only	
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Lactation</b>		
	Risk data available	
<b>CSA Schedule*</b>		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
<b>Approval History</b>		
	Drug history at FDA	▼



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8.8 / 10

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