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Sinequan*

brand of doxepin

settles the mind for sleep while treating the underlying depression.

▶ Sedative tricyclic antidepressant.
▶ Once nightly dosage.

Indications: depression with or without anxiety. Contraindications: glaucoma, urinary retention, hypersensitivity to the drug. Side effects: dry mouth and dryness are most commonly reported. Precautions: Sinequan may potentiate other compounds e.g. monoamine oxidase inhibitors, not recommended in pregnancy or children under 12 years of age. Dosage: range 30mg to 300mg daily in divided doses; up to 100mg may be given as a single dose at night. Packs and Basic N.H.S. Cost: 10mg capsules (PL 57/5032), pack of 100 £1.98; 25mg capsules (PL 57/5033), pack of 100 £4.24; 50mg capsules (PL 57/5034), pack of 100 £7.01; 75mg capsules (PL 57/5035), pack of 60 £8.64

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(2) Red cherry-flavoured syrup containing 200mg sodium valproate per 5 ml (Epilim Syrup).

Indications
Epilepsy. In women of childbearing age, Epilim should be used only in severe cases or those resistant to other treatment.

Dosage and Administration
To be taken with or after food; tablets should be swallowed whole.
Adults: Initially 600mg/day in divided doses, increasing by 200mg/day at three-day intervals until control is achieved (maximum dose 2600mg/day).
Children over 20kg: Initially 400mg/day in divided doses, with spaced increases until control is achieved (usually in the range of 20-30mg/kg/day). Children under 20kg: 20mg/kg/day, with spaced increases until control is achieved, up to a maximum of 50mg/kg/day.
Plasma levels of 200µg/ml should be exceeded only with caution and with monitoring of haematological function.

Contra-indications, Warnings, etc.
There are no absolute contra-indications.
Side-effects: Minor gastric irritation and nausea have been observed in some patients at the start of treatment with uncoated tablets, but this can usually be overcome by using the enteric coated tablet, or relieved by standard medication. Transient hair loss has occurred in some patients; tremor, occasionally seen at high dosages, may be controlled by reduction of dosage. Oedema has been reported. Reversible prolongation of bleeding time and thrombocytopenia have been reported, but usually at doses above those recommended. Spontaneous bruising or bleeding is an indication for withdrawal of medication pending investigation. Patients receiving Epilim should be monitored for platelet function before major surgery.

Liver dysfunction, including hepatic failure resulting in fatalities, has occurred in a few patients whose treatment included Epilim. These incidents occurred during the early months of treatment. Although a causal relationship has not been established, it is recommended that liver function be investigated prior to commencing therapy and monitored at two-monthly intervals thereafter for up to six months. Should liver dysfunction be suspected, immediate withdrawal of the drug is indicated, prior to full investigation of the possible causes. Caution should be exercised when administering Epilim to patients with pre-existing liver disease.

Combined medication: When adding Epilim to existing anticonvulsant medication, e.g. barbiturates, the sedative effects of the latter may be enhanced, and it may therefore be necessary to reduce their dosage. As Epilim may potentiate the effect of mono-amine oxidase inhibitors and other antidepressants, dosage of such compounds should also be reduced.

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Prescribing Information
Indications
Dantrolene sodium is indicated for the treatment of spasticity caused by upper motor neuron disease of various etiologies.

Dosage
The usual adult dosage is 100 mg as a single dose or in divided doses, with increments of 100 mg every 3-7 days as required and tolerated. Max daily dosage is 1000 mg.

Contra-indications
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Precautions
The use of Dantrolene sodium may cause a reduction in serum potassium levels. Monitoring of serum potassium is recommended. Dantrolene sodium is contraindicated in the presence of acute intercurrent conditions that may further increase spasticity.

Action in event of overdosage
Gastric lavage, symptomatic and supportive treatment. Cardiac monitor for ecg abnormalities. Maintain a patent airway.

Side effects
Gastrointestinal symptoms, including nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, may occur. Other possible side effects include dizziness, headache, fatigue, fever, rash, malaise and muscle tenderness.

Warning
Dantrolene sodium should be used with caution in patients with a history of cardiac disease or chronic renal failure.

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Further information is available on request.

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Remembering Henry

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