Generic Asendin (Amoxapine)

Meta title, meta description and short product description

Meta title	Generic Asendin (Amoxapine) Tetracyclic Antidepressant
Meta description	Generic Asendin contains amoxapine, a tetracyclic antidepressant for depression, including depression with anxiety or agitation. Uses, dosing and safety.
Short product description	Generic Asendin contains amoxapine, a tetracyclic antidepressant used to treat depression, including depressive states accompanied by anxiety or agitation. It acts on noradrenaline and serotonin and is noted for a relatively rapid onset compared with some older antidepressants.

Product Overview

Generic Asendin is an oral antidepressant containing amoxapine, a medicine belonging to the dibenzoxazepine class and commonly grouped with tetracyclic antidepressants. Amoxapine shares many properties with tricyclic antidepressants but also has a characteristic feature: one of its metabolites has activity at dopamine receptors similar to that of certain antipsychotic medicines.

This dual profile has made amoxapine of interest in depression accompanied by agitation, anxiety or, in some cases, psychotic features. It is available in tablet strengths such as 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg, allowing flexible dose adjustment.

Composition

Each tablet contains:

- Amoxapine: available in strengths such as 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg

Therapeutic Uses

Generic Asendin is used for:

- Major depressive disorder
- Depression accompanied by anxiety or agitation
- Reactive and endogenous depression
- Depression with psychotic features, in some treatment approaches

Mechanism of Action

Amoxapine inhibits the reuptake of noradrenaline and, to a lesser extent, serotonin at nerve terminals. By preventing these neurotransmitters from being reabsorbed, it increases their

availability in the synapse and enhances signalling in pathways that regulate mood, sleep and arousal.

Its major metabolite, 7-hydroxyamoxapine, blocks dopamine D2 receptors. This contributes to a mild antipsychotic-like effect, which may be useful where depression is accompanied by agitation or disordered thinking, but it also explains why amoxapine can occasionally cause movement-related side effects associated with dopamine blockade.

Key Benefits

Relief of Depressive Symptoms

Amoxapine improves low mood, poor concentration, sleep disturbance and loss of interest.

Relatively Prompt Onset

Some studies suggest that amoxapine may produce noticeable improvement earlier than certain tricyclic antidepressants, in some cases within the first one to two weeks.

Support in Agitated Depression

Its combined antidepressant and mild dopamine-blocking action can help where anxiety, restlessness or agitation are prominent.

Flexible Dosing

Multiple strengths allow the dose to be adjusted precisely according to response.

Dosage and Administration

- Treatment typically starts at 50 mg two or three times daily, with gradual increase according to response.
- Usual effective doses range from 200 mg to 300 mg daily in adults.
- Once an effective dose is established, the total daily amount may be taken as a single dose at bedtime, provided it does not exceed 300 mg.
- Lower starting doses are used in older adults.
- Tablets are swallowed with water, with or without food.

Treatment is continued for several months after recovery to reduce the risk of relapse and is withdrawn gradually.

Onset of Action

Improvements in sleep and agitation may appear within the first week. Changes in mood commonly become evident within one to three weeks, with the full effect developing over several weeks of continued use.

Side Effects

Commonly reported side effects include:

- Drowsiness
- Dry mouth
- Constipation
- Blurred vision
- Dizziness, particularly on standing
- Weight gain
- Increased sweating

Because of its dopamine-blocking metabolite, amoxapine can cause extrapyramidal symptoms such as tremor and stiffness, and, rarely, tardive dyskinesia or neuroleptic malignant syndrome. Other serious effects include seizures, irregular heart rhythm and severe allergic reactions. An increase in suicidal thoughts has been reported with antidepressants, especially in young people at the start of treatment. Such reactions require immediate medical attention.

Warnings and Precautions

- Amoxapine is not used in the recovery period following a heart attack.
- Caution applies in epilepsy, cardiovascular disease, glaucoma, urinary retention, enlarged prostate, liver disease and thyroid disorders.
- Overdose is potentially serious, particularly because of the risk of seizures and kidney injury.
- Alcohol and other sedatives are avoided, as they increase drowsiness.
- Driving and operating machinery require caution until individual response is known.
- Use in pregnancy and breastfeeding requires careful evaluation.
- Abrupt withdrawal can cause nausea, headache and malaise, so doses are reduced gradually.

Clinical Considerations

Amoxapine occupies a specialised place among antidepressants. Its combination of reuptake inhibition and dopamine-blocking activity distinguishes it from standard tricyclic agents, and this profile is taken into account when selecting it. It is generally considered where depression includes marked agitation or anxiety, or where other antidepressants have not produced an adequate response. Because the dopamine-related effects increase with dose and duration, the lowest effective dose is maintained over the long term.

Drug Interactions

- MAO inhibitors must not be combined with amoxapine, and an interval of at least 14 days is required between them.
- Other antidepressants, tramadol and triptans may increase the risk of serotonin-related effects.

- Antipsychotics and metoclopramide increase the risk of movement disorders.
- Medicines that prolong the QT interval increase the risk of heart rhythm problems.
- CYP2D6 inhibitors, such as fluoxetine and quinidine, may raise amoxapine levels.
- Anticholinergic medicines add to dry mouth, constipation and urinary retention.

Monitoring During Treatment

During amoxapine therapy, attention is given to changes in mood and behaviour, particularly in the first weeks and after any dose adjustment. Because of its dopamine-related effects, new tremor, muscle stiffness, restlessness or unusual facial and tongue movements are observed closely. In older adults and those with heart disease, blood pressure on standing and heart rhythm may be assessed periodically.

Storage

Store below 30°C in a tightly closed container, protected from light and moisture. Keep out of the reach of children.

Conclusion

Generic Asendin offers amoxapine, a tetracyclic antidepressant with a distinctive pharmacological profile that combines noradrenaline and serotonin reuptake inhibition with mild dopamine-blocking activity. It is effective in major depression and may be particularly relevant where anxiety or agitation accompanies low mood. Careful dose adjustment, gradual withdrawal and awareness of movement-related and cardiac effects support its safe use.