sanofi aventis
Because health matters

IMPORTANT PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Subject: Update to Norpramin® (desipramine hydrochloride tablets USP) Prescribing Information

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Sanofi-aventis U.S. would like to inform you of important information regarding Norpramin® (desipramine hydrochloride tablets USP). The prescribing information for this product has been revised as outlined below:

- Under **WARNINGS General,** the addition of patients who have a family history of sudden death, cardiac dysrhythmias, or cardiac conduction disturbances; also the addition of a note that seizures precede cardiac dysrhythmias and death in some patients.
- Under **OVERDOSAGE:**
  - This section was revised to read, "Overdose of desipramine has resulted in a higher death rate compared to overdoses of other tricyclic antidepressants."
  - Under **Manifestations of Overdosage,** addition of: "Early changes in the QRS complex include a widening of the terminal 40 msec with a rightward axis in the frontal plane, recognized by the presence of a terminal S wave in Lead 1 and AVL and an R wave in AVR."
  - Under **Management, Gastrointestinal Decontamination,** revised to read: "Activated charcoal should be administered to patients who present early after an overdose."
  - Under **Management, Cardiovascular,** revised to read: "A maximal limb-lead QRS duration widening to greater than 100 msec is a significant indicator of toxicity, specifically for the risk of seizures and, eventually, cardiac dysrhythmias. Serum alkalinization with intravenous sodium bicarbonate and hyperventilation (as needed) should be instituted in patients manifesting significant toxicity such as QRS widening. Dysrhythmias despite adequate alkalemia may respond to overdrive pacing, beta-agonist infusions, and magnesium therapy."
  - Under **Management, CNS,** "phenytoin" was replaced with "propofol" and the following was deleted: "Physostigmine is not recommended except to treat life-threatening symptoms that have been unresponsive to other therapies, and then only in consultation with a poison control center."
- Under **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Usual Adult Dose,** deletion of: "Plasma desipramine measurement would constitute the optimal guide to dosage monitoring."

Please refer to the enclosed copy of the **FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION** for a complete discussion of the **WARNINGS, OVERDOSAGE,** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** for Norpramin.

sanofi-aventis U.S., 55 Corporate Drive, PO Box 5925, Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0890
Tel. (908) 981-5000 – www.sanofi-aventis.com

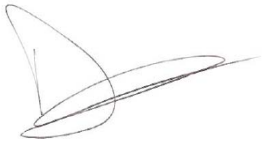
Patient safety is our highest priority at sanofi-aventis U.S., and we are committed to ensuring that healthcare professionals continue to have the information necessary to prescribe Norpramin appropriately. Please carefully review this information and contact sanofi-aventis if you should have any questions about this information or the safe and effective use of Norpramin.

We also encourage you to report any adverse events experienced by your patients. To report adverse events occurring in connection with the use of Norpramin, call 1-800-633-1610 (option #2). Alternatively, this information may be reported to FDA's MedWatch Reporting System by phone at 1-800-FDA-1088, by facsimile at 1-800-FDA-0178, or by mail using the Form 3500 available at http://www.fda.gov/medwatch/index.html.

The current prescribing information for Norpramin is also available on the company Web site at www.sanofi-aventis.us.

If you have further questions or require additional information, please contact our Medical Information Department at 1-800-633-1610 (option #1) from 9am to 8pm (EST) Monday–Friday.

Sincerely,



Dario Mirski
Vice President
US Medical Affairs
sanofi-aventis U.S.

Enclosure:
Norpramin® (desipramine hydrochloride tablets USP) full prescribing information

US.DSP.09.11.001