

# Amitriptyline Questionnaire (Elavil)

## Co-Enzyme Q10, L-Carnitine and Amitriptyline Usage in Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome

**Did you ever take amitriptyline (“Elavil”)? (please circle answer)    YES    NO**

*If the answer is “No”, please skip all of these questions, yet answer the other questionnaires.*

*If the answer is “Yes”, please answer the following questions:*

*If you are a parent of a child with CVS, then the word “you” refers to “your child” throughout the survey questions.*

1. How long did you take amitriptyline for (example: 2 months)?
2. Did you start amitriptyline at about the same time as either co-enzyme Q10 or L-carnitine?  
YES, CO-ENZYME Q10    YES, L-CARNITINE    YES, BOTH    NO, NEITHER (please circle)
3. Did you start amitriptyline and anything else at about the same time?    YES    NO (please circle)
  - a. If “YES”, then what else did you start at that time?
4. How many times a day did you take amitriptyline (example: twice a day)?
5. What amount did you take each time you took amitriptyline (example: 10 mg)?
6. Did you take amitriptyline with food?
7. What was your approximate weight at the time that you were taking amitriptyline (example: 50 lbs)?
8. Did you take the ELAVIL brand, a GENERIC, BOTH, or are you NOT SURE? (please circle)
9. NO QUESTION
10. Do you have cyclic vomiting syndrome?    YES    NO    DON’T KNOW (please circle)  
If no, please skip to question #21
11. Prior to taking amitriptyline, did vomiting episodes occur at fairly regular intervals, in response to triggers/stressors (illness, etc.) or did they mostly occur at random?  
(Please circle the best response):  
REGULAR INTERVALS    WITH STRESSORS    AT RANDOM
  - a. Did amitriptyline change this vomiting pattern? YES    NO (please circle)  
If “Yes”, then please circle the pattern on amitriptyline treatment: (please circle)
    - i. REGULAR INTERVALS    WITH STRESSORS    AT RANDOM
  - b. If you answered “with stressors”, please circle all of the triggers or stressors that you believe have triggered vomiting episodes (please circle):  
ILLNESS (colds, etc.)    FASTING    CERTAIN FOODS    EXCITEMENT    ANXIETY    EXERCISE    OTHER (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
12. How frequent did you have vomiting episodes prior to starting amitriptyline in the last 12 months (examples: 4 episodes a year, every two weeks, no episodes, etc.)?
13. How frequent did you have vomiting episodes while taking amitriptyline (examples: 4 episodes a year, every two weeks, no episodes, etc.)?
  - a. If you have not had any episodes since you started taking amitriptyline, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

14. How long did episodes of nausea and/or vomiting last prior to starting amitriptyline (examples: 12 hours, 4 days)?
15. How long did episodes of nausea and/or vomiting last while taking amitriptyline (examples: 12 hours, 4 days)?
16. How severe was the nausea prior to starting amitriptyline on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst discomfort imaginable?
17. How severe was the nausea while taking amitriptyline on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst discomfort imaginable?
18. How many times did you generally vomit during episodes prior to starting amitriptyline (examples: 6 per episode, 4 per hour)?
19. How many times did you generally vomit during episodes while taking amitriptyline (examples: 6 per episode, 4 times per hour)?
20. Do you generally have symptoms before nausea and vomiting start (“prodrome”)?
  - a. If so, what symptoms (please circle all applicable responses)? (please circle)  
 BEHAVIORAL CHANGES/LETHARGY/IRRITABILITY  
 CHANGE IN SECRETIONS (bowel movements, tears, sweat, saliva, etc.)  
 CHANGES IN APPETITE/THIRST  
 OTHER, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Did amitriptyline affect these symptoms? YES NO (please circle).  
 If “Yes”, how?
21. Did you suffer from headaches severe enough to change your routine or cause significant distress prior to starting amitriptyline?  
 YES NO (please circle).  
 If “No”, skip to the question #22.
  - a. How often did you have headaches prior to starting amitriptyline (examples: three times a week, once every 2 weeks)?
  - b. How often did you have headaches while taking amitriptyline (examples: three times a week, once every 2 weeks)?
  - c. How long did headaches last prior to starting amitriptyline (examples: 2 hours, all day)?
  - d. How long did headaches last while taking amitriptyline (examples: 2 hours, all day)?
  - e. How severe was the average headache prior to starting amitriptyline on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst headache imaginable?
  - f. How severe was the average headache while taking amitriptyline on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst headache imaginable?
22. Did you suffer from muscle cramps severe enough to change your routine or cause significant distress prior to starting amitriptyline?  
 YES NO (please circle).  
 If “No”, skip to question #23.
  - a. How often did you have muscle cramps prior to starting amitriptyline (example: three times a week)?
  - b. How often did you have muscle cramps while taking amitriptyline (examples: three times a week, once every 2 weeks)?
  - c. How long did muscle cramps last prior to starting amitriptyline (examples: 2 hours, all day)?
  - d. How long did muscle cramps last while taking amitriptyline (examples: 2 hours, all day)?
  - e. How severe were the average muscle cramps prior to starting amitriptyline on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst muscle cramps imaginable?
  - f. How severe were the average muscle cramps while taking amitriptyline on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst muscle cramps imaginable?

23. If amitriptyline helped to relieve some symptoms much more than others, please write in those symptoms that have improved:

Please write in any symptoms that did not improve:

24. If there was an improvement after giving amitriptyline, how long after starting it did you notice the beginning of improvement (examples: immediately, three months)?

a. How long after starting it did the improvement take to reach its full extent (examples: immediate, three months, still improving after 6 months)?

25. Did you have more “energy”, endurance or muscle strength while taking amitriptyline? (please circle)

YES, STRONGLY

YES

SORT OF EQUAL/NOT SURE

NO CHANGE

NO, I AM/WAS WORSE

I HAVE NOT TAKEN AMITRIPTYLINE LONG ENOUGH YET TO KNOW

26. Did amitriptyline help with any symptom not mentioned here? If so, please list the symptoms and how it/they were helped by amitriptyline.

27. Did you stop any medications because of positive effects from amitriptyline? YES NO (please circle)

a. If so, please cross out the name of any treatment that you **stopped taking** since you have started amitriptyline, and circle any that you decreased the dosage.

AMITRIPTYLINE (Elavil)

ONDANSETRON (Zofran)

CYPROHEPTADINE (Periactin)

SUMATRIPTAN (Imitrex)

PROPRANOLOL (Inderal)

IV FLUIDS

TOPIRAMATE (Topamax)

FREQUENT FEEDINGS

DIPHENHYDRAMINE (Benadryl)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

L-CARNITINE (Carnitor)

28. Did you have any side effects while on amitriptyline? YES NO (please circle).

If “No”, skip to question #29.

If there were more than one side effect, please answer the following questions for each side effect (separate responses by an “/”).

a. What was the side effect?

b. How long after starting amitriptyline did the side effect occur?

c. Did the side effect go away or improve substantially with time? (please circle)

YES NO STOPPED Co-Q SO I DON'T KNOW

d. Was the side effect severe or bothersome enough to cause you to stop taking amitriptyline? YES NO (please circle).

e. How severe was the side effect on a 1 to 10 scale, with 10 being the worst?

29. Did amitriptyline change your stools (BMs)? (please circle)

BECAME LOOSER, WHICH WAS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM

BECAME LOOSER, BUT NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM

BECAME LOOSER, WHICH WAS GOOD BECAUSE CONSTIPATION IMPROVED

BECAME LOOSER AT FIRST, THEN MUCH BETTER LATER

NO CHANGE

CAUSED CONSTIPATION AT FIRST, THEN MUCH BETTER LATER

CAUSED CONSTIPATION, BUT NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM

CAUSED CONSTIPATION, WHICH WAS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM

30. Did amitriptyline cause you to have an unpleasant odor?  
 YES, WHICH WAS A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM  
 YES, BUT NOT A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM  
 YES, AT FIRST, THEN MUCH BETTER LATER  
 NO CHANGE
- a. If yes, what was the odor? FISH-LIKE OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_
31. Are you still taking amitriptyline? YES NO (please circle)  
 If "Yes", skip to question #32.
- a. Why did you stop amitriptyline? (please circle all applicable responses)  
 DIDN'T WORK WELL ENOUGH  
 EPISODES IMPROVED BY THEMSELVES  
 I AM ON A BETTER THERAPY, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOO EXPENSIVE  
 FORGOT TO REFILL  
 SIDE EFFECTS  
 OTHER, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. When you stopped amitriptyline did any improvement go away? YES NO N/A, and if so, what got worse?  
 i. How long after stopping amitriptyline did any improvement go away?
- c. When you stopped amitriptyline did any side effects go away? YES NO N/A, and if so, what side effects?  
 i. How long after stopping amitriptyline did any side effects go away?
32. Do you believe that the improvement that you received on amitriptyline, if any, justified the side effects that you experienced?  
 YES, STRONGLY  
 YES  
 SORT OF EQUAL/NOT SURE  
 NO  
 NO, STRONGLY  
 I HAVE NOT TAKEN AMITRIPTYLINE LONG ENOUGH YET TO KNOW  
 I HAVE HAD NO SIDE EFFECTS
33. Did insurance pay for the amitriptyline?  
 YES  
 YES, BUT ONLY ON APPEAL  
 NO, IT WAS DENIED  
 DIDN'T TRY  
 DON'T HAVE INSURANCE
- a. What kind of insurance? (Please circle): PPO HMO MEDICAIDE OTHER, please specify \_\_\_\_\_
34. How much a month did you personally pay for the amitriptyline?
35. Do you believe that the improvement that you received on amitriptyline, if any, justified the costs that you paid?  
 YES, STRONGLY  
 YES  
 SORT OF EQUAL/NOT SURE  
 NO  
 NO, STRONGLY  
 I HAVE NOT TAKEN AMITRIPTYLINE LONG ENOUGH YET TO KNOW

36. Would you recommend amitriptyline to a friend or relative with CVS?  
 YES, STRONGLY  
 YES  
 SORT OF EQUAL/NOT SURE  
 NO  
 NO, STRONGLY  
 I HAVE NOT TAKEN AMITRIPTYLINE LONG ENOUGH YET TO KNOW  
 OTHER, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
37. How did you hear about amitriptyline? (please circle all applicable responses)  
 PHYSICIAN (non-CVS specialist)  
 CVS SPECIALIST  
 CVSA NEWSLETTER  
 CVSA WEBSITE  
 CVS LIST SERVER/BULLETIN BOARD  
 MEDICAL INTERNET SITE OR BOOK  
 LECTURE/CONFERENCE ON CVS  
 "WORD OF MOUTH" FROM ANOTHER PATIENT OR FAMILY  
 RELATIVE/PARENT OF RELATIVE WHO IS TAKING AMITRIPTYLINE  
 OTHER, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
38. How was the decision to try amitriptyline made? (please circle the one best answer)  
 BY MY PHYSICIAN  
 JOINTLY BETWEEN MY PHYSICIAN AND MYSELF  
 BY MYSELF
39. What does your physician think about your taking amitriptyline?  
 HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE, MY PHYSICIAN STRONGLY RECOMMENDED IT  
 SUPPORTIVE, MY PHYSICIAN SUGGESTED IT  
 SUPPORTIVE, BUT I SUGGESTED IT TO MY PHYSICIAN  
 PARTIALLY SUPPORTIVE; TOLD ME THAT IT MIGHT HELP, BUT THAT WAS NOT LIKELY  
 UNCLEAR/CONFLICTED/DOESN'T KNOW IF IT IS A GOOD IDEA OR NOT  
 NON SUPPORTIVE, TOLD ME THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY TO HELP  
 NON SUPPORTIVE, TOLD ME TO STOP TAKING IT  
 MY PHYSICIAN DOESN'T KNOW BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THAT HE/SHE WOULD BE SUPPORTIVE  
 MY PHYSICIAN DOESN'T KNOW AS IT NEVER CAME UP OR I HAVEN'T SEEN A PHYSICIAN LATELY
40. Were any other co-factors, vitamins, medications, diets or other therapies started at about the same time that amitriptyline was started? YES NO. If so, what?
41. Does anyone else in the family take amitriptyline? YES NO. If so, how are they related, what symptoms are being treated, and what was the response? (please explain below)
- a. If the relative has cyclic vomiting, migraine or muscle cramps and will complete a separate survey, please check here \_\_\_\_\_.
42. To your knowledge was an amitriptyline blood level drawn? YES NO DON'T KNOW.  
 Note: Blood levels are rarely performed, so do not be alarmed if your answer is "No".
- a. If so, was it obtained on or off of amitriptyline, and what was the result (example: blood drawn before starting amitriptyline and result was normal)?
43. Is there any question about amitriptyline that we should have asked but didn't (please tell us the question and your answer)?
44. Is there anything else that you wish to tell us about your experience with amitriptyline?