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# Amitriptyline

National Cancer Institute

## Source

National Cancer Institute. *Amitriptyline*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C62005.

A derivative of dibenzocycloheptadiene and a tricyclic antidepressant. Amitriptyline inhibits the re-uptake of norepinephrine and serotonin by the presynaptic neuronal membrane in the central nervous system (CNS), thereby increasing the synaptic concentration of norepinephrine and serotonin. Due to constant stimulation to these receptors, amitriptyline may produce a downregulation of adrenergic and serotonin receptors, which may contribute to the antidepressant activity.