

# Citicoline

*A natural treatment for mood, memory, and addiction*

Citicoline is a supplement with numerous benefits in the brain. It has been studied in people with depression, including bipolar depression, who also abused cocaine or stimulants (such as methamphetamine). In those studies it reduced drug abuse and improved memory and mood.

It has been used to treat dementia, Parkinson's disease, traumatic head injury, glaucoma, and stroke.

Citicoline helps protect the brain by improving the structure of brain cell membranes. It also enhances neurotransmitters involved in mood and memory including norepinephrine, dopamine, serotonin and acetylcholine.

Although it is natural, there are not good food sources for Citicoline.

## Dosage

Citicoline is started as:

Week 1: 500mg daily

Week 2: 1,000mg daily

Week 3: 1,500mg daily

Then continue at: 2,000mg (or 2gm) daily.

The dose can be taken all at once or spread throughout the day, with or without food.

## Choosing a product

We keep an updated list of the best product for the price at:

[Moodtreatmentcenter.com/products](http://Moodtreatmentcenter.com/products)  
(under Vitamins & Herbs)

Citicoline is available online (e.g. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.drugstore.com](http://www.drugstore.com)). It can cost from \$40-90 per month.

Aim for one that comes as 500mg capsules (many come as 250mg). A reasonably priced option that was tested for purity by ConsumerLabs is:

Cognizin Citicoline 500 Mg 60 Caps by Bestvite (about \$2/day at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), product ASIN: B00KYU726G).

For in-store purchases, try A & S Natural Health in Winston-Salem (336) 774-8600 or call your local vitamin and natural health stores.

## Side effects, risks, and drug interactions

Citicoline is safe and well tolerated. Compared to a sugar-pill it had no side effects. Citicoline does not appear to interact with other medications.

## Limitations

Citicoline has not been widely studied. Its safety is not regulated by the FDA.

## References

Brown ES, Gorman AR, Hynan LS. A randomized, placebo-controlled trial of citicoline add-on therapy in outpatients with bipolar disorder and cocaine dependence. *J Clin Psychopharmacol.* 2007 Oct;27(5):498-502.

Brown ES, Todd JP, Hu LT, Schmitz JM, et al. A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Citicoline for Cocaine Dependence in Bipolar I Disorder. *Am J Psychiatry.* 2015 Oct;172(10):1014-1021

Brown ES, Gabrielson B. A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of citicoline for bipolar and unipolar depression and methamphetamine dependence. *J Affect Disord.* 2012 Dec 20;143(1-3):257-260.

Cotroneo AM, Castagna A, Putignano S, Lacava R, et al. Effectiveness and safety of citicoline in mild vascular cognitive impairment: the IDEALE study. *Clin Interv Aging.* 2013;8:131-137. Paragraph 2

—Chris Aiken, M.D., updated 2/23/2021