

**ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC**

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ALTEPLASE - INJECTION

OTHER NAMES: Activase

USES: This medication is an enzyme which works to break up and dissolve blood clots which can block arteries. It is used in the treatment of an acute heart attack or pulmonary embolism.

HOW TO USE THIS MEDICATION: This medication is given by injection within 6 hours of chest pain by a health care professional. It is usually given over a two to three hour period. Continued or repeated doses are not usually required.

It is important this medication be used as prescribed. It is most effective when administered as soon as possible after symptoms of a heart attack appear.

SIDE EFFECTS: Nausea, vomiting, dizziness or mild fever may occur. If any of these effects continue or become bothersome, inform your doctor.

Notify your doctor if you experience easy bruising or bleeding, a skin rash, breathing trouble, a rapid or abnormal heartbeat or chest pain while using this medication.

Immediately report any signs of bleeding to your doctor.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor if you have any pre-existing bleeding disorders, high blood pressure, recent injury or surgery, liver disease, endocarditis or any allergies.

Use extra caution to avoid injury and trauma while using this medication due to the increased risk of bleeding.

This medication should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. It is not known if this medication appears in breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of any over-the-counter or prescription medication you may take including any blood thinners or aspirin.

NOTES: Laboratory tests will be done frequently while using this medication to monitor its effects and to prevent side effects.

MISSED DOSE: Continued or repeated doses are usually not necessary for this medication.

STORAGE: Store in a cool area as directed and protect from light.  
Discard any unused medication after the expiration date on the  
label.

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