

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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BEPRIDIL - ORAL

USES: Bepridil is a calcium channel blocking agent. Calcium is involved in muscle contraction. By blocking calcium, this medication relaxes the heart muscle and dilates the blood vessels of the heart to prevent spasm. This medication is used to treat angina (chest pain).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: This medication must be taken as directed even when you do not have chest pain. It must be taken as prescribed to prevent chest pain from occurring.

Try to take this medication at the same time(s) each day.

Do not stop taking this medication suddenly without your doctor's permission. Some conditions can become worse if the medication is stopped too fast.

If stomach upset occurs, this drug may be taken with food or milk.

SIDE EFFECTS: This drug may cause dizziness and lightheadedness especially during the first few days. Avoid activities requiring alertness. When you sit or lie down for a while, get up slowly to allow your body to adjust and minimize dizziness.

You may also experience diarrhea, heartburn, nausea, blurred vision, muscle cramps, headache, fatigue, drowsiness, ringing in the ears, flushing, trembling or shaking hands. These effects should disappear as your body adjusts to the medication. Inform your doctor if they continue or become bothersome.

Notify your doctor if you develop breathing difficulties, swelling of the hands or feet, unusual bleeding or bruising, chest pains or an irregular heartbeat while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: This drug should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Since small amounts of bepridil appear in breast milk; consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

Tell your doctor if you have pre-existing heart disease, a history of heart arrhythmias, liver disease, kidney disease or blood disorders.

Your doctor may do laboratory tests periodically while you are taking this medication to check your blood potassium level.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of any over-the-counter or prescription medication you may take including beta-blockers, digoxin, fentanyl, terfenadine or astemizole.

Avoid any drugs that increase your heart-rate (the decongestants phenylephrine, pseudoephedrine and phenylpropanolamine are examples). These drugs are commonly found in over-the-counter cough and cold products.

MISSED DOSE: Take the missed dose as soon as you remember; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature between 59 and 86 degrees F (between 15 and 30 degrees C) away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.

Your condition can cause complications in a medical emergency. For information on enrollment call Medic Alert(TM) at 1-800-854-1166. In Canada call 1-800-668-1507.