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DISOPYRAMIDE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Norpace CR, Rythmodan

USES: This medication is used to treat irregular heart rhythms (arrhythmias) and maintain a normal heart rate.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: This is best taken with a full glass of water on an empty stomach one hour before or two hours after meals. If stomach upset occurs, it may be taken with food. Sustained-release tablets and capsules must be swallowed whole. Do not crush or chew them.

This medication works best when there is a constant level of the drug in your body. To do this, take each dose as prescribed at evenly spaced intervals throughout the day and night. Try to take each dose at the same time each day.

SIDE EFFECTS: Blurred vision, dry mouth, constipation, or difficulty urinating may occur as your body adjusts to the medication. If these symptoms persist or become bothersome, contact your doctor.

Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, rapid heartbeat, confusion, easy bruising or bleeding, rash, or breathing difficulties while taking this medication.

This drug may cause dizziness and lightheadedness. To avoid this, rise from a seated or lying position slowly. Avoid alcohol

PRECAUTIONS: Women who are pregnant or breast-feeding should inform their doctors.

Before taking disopyramide, tell your doctor if you have myasthenia gravis; high blood pressure; glaucoma (or a family history of glaucoma); heart, liver, kidney, or prostate disease; difficulty urinating.

Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Avoid alcohol and becoming overheated.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Small amounts of the medication pass into breast milk. Consult with your doctor about breast-feeding.

Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Before you take this drug, tell your doctor of any over-the-counter or prescription drugs you are taking, especially phenobarbital, phenytoin, procainamide, propranolol,

quinidine, warfarin, erythromycin and rifampin.

NOTES: Your doctor may want you to take your pulse each day while you take this medication. Learn how to monitor your pulse.

To evaluate the effectiveness of this medication, your doctor may periodically take a blood sample to measure the amount of the drug in your body.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered unless the next scheduled dose is within 4 hours. If so, 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.