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FELODIPINE - ORAL EXTENDED RELEASE

OTHER NAMES: Plendil

USES: This drug is a calcium channel blocker. Calcium is involved in muscle contraction. By blocking calcium, this medication relaxes the blood vessels and causes them to dilate. This reduces blood pressure.

Felodipine is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Tablets should be swallowed whole. Do not crush or chew tablets.

This medication must be taken as directed to reduce blood pressure. It should be taken even if you do not feel sick. Most people with high blood pressure do not have any symptoms.

Try to take this medication at the same time 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 minimize dizziness and allow your body to adjust.

You may also experience headache, flushing, nausea, tingling hands and feet, cough, sleep disturbances and swollen gums. These effects should disappear as your body adjusts to the medication. Inform your doctor if they become bothersome.

Notify your doctor if you develop breathing difficulties, swelling of the face, hands and feet or an irregular heartbeat.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor if you have pre-existing heart disease or liver disease.

This drug should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. It is not known if felodipine appears in breast milk; consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

Limit alcohol while taking this medication as it can enhance dizziness.

Avoid drinking grapefruit juice at the same time you take this medication.

This medication may cause enlargement of the gums. This can be minimized by maintaining good oral hygiene with regular brushing,

flossing and massaging of the gums.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of any over-the-counter or prescription medication you may take including sedatives, tranquilizers, erythromycin antibiotic, cimetidine, ranitidine, phenytoin, beta-blockers, carbamazepine, digoxin, or theophylline.

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.