

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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FLECAINIDE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Tambocor

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

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: This medication may be taken without regard to meals.

This medication works best when there is a constant level of the drug in your body. To do this, take each dose exactly as prescribed at evenly spaced intervals, usually every twelve (12) hours. Try to take each dose at the same time each day.

Do not stop taking this medication or change the dose without first consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped.

SIDE EFFECTS: Constipation, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, headache, skin rash, blurred vision, anxiety, depression or stomach upset may occur as your body adjusts to the medication. If these effects persist or worsen, inform your MD.

Because this medication may cause lightheadedness or dizziness in some people, make sure you know how you react to this drug before driving or operating machinery.

Notify your doctor if you develop chest pain, irregular heartbeat, trembling or shaking, shortness of breath, or swelling of feet or lower legs while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. It is not known if this medication appears in breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

Be sure your doctor or dentist knows your complete medical history especially if you are planning to undergo any medical or dental procedures.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the medicines you use (both prescription and nonprescription) especially if you take other medicines to treat irregular heartbeats (antiarrhythmics), beta-blockers (propranolol or Inderal like drugs usually used for high blood pressure), cimetidine (Tagamet for ulcers) or digoxin (Lanoxin) because your dose may need to be adjusted or you may be monitored more closely.

NOTES: Your doctor may want you to check your pulse rate every 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. Tests such as chest x-ray, eye exams or electrocardiogram (EKG) may also be done. Keep all appointments with your doctor.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; 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 away from sunlight and moisture.

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.