

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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GUANETHIDINE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Apo-Guanethidine, Ismelin

USES: This medication relaxes and dilates (expands) blood vessels resulting in lowered blood pressure. It is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Try to take it at the same time(s) each day.

Take with food or milk to avoid stomach irritation.

Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased.

It is important to continue taking this medication even if you feel well. Most people with high blood pressure do not feel sick.

SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, diarrhea, sexual problems in males, loss of appetite, fatigue, and nasal congestion may occur as your body adjusts to the medication.

Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, muscle aches, shortness of breath, skin rash, swelling of the hands or feet, or yellowing of the eyes or skin, or severe diarrhea while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: Before taking guanethidine, tell your doctor if you have heart or blood vessel disease, liver or kidney disease, a history of stomach ulcer, diarrhea, asthma, fever, diabetes or pheochromocytoma.

To avoid dizziness and lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, change positions slowly. Avoid prolonged standing and be careful on stairs.

Limit your intake of alcoholic beverages while taking this medication. Alcohol can lead to excessive drowsiness or fainting. Also avoid hot showers, saunas, or prolonged exercise as excessive heat can worsen dizziness.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

It is not known if guanethidine passes into breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Before taking guanethidine, tell your doctor of all drugs you may use both prescription and nonprescription, especially of antidepressants, MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone,

phenelzine, selegiline, tranylcypromine), drugs for mental conditions (e.g., phenothiazines, haloperidol, loxapine), diabetes medicines, drugs used for high blood pressure, weight loss and birth control pills.

Do not take any medication for coughs, colds or allergies without first checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Some of these products contain ingredients which can increase blood pressure.

NOTES: It is important to have your blood pressure checked regularly while taking this medication. Learn how to monitor your blood pressure. Discuss this with your doctor.

Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

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 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.