

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC
670 Lawn Ave., Suite 3A Sellersville, PA 18960
Tel (215)257-9500 FAX (215) 257-9500

METHYLDOPA - ORAL, INJECTION

OTHER NAMES: Aldomet

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

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

Tablets may be taken with food or milk to avoid stomach irritation.

The liquid form must be shaken well before each dose.

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

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

SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, gas, dry mouth, fatigue, and stomach upset may occur the first several days as your body adjusts to the medication.

To avoid dizziness and lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, get up slowly.

Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, difficulty breathing, depression, severe stomach cramps, unusual bleeding or bruising, yellowing of the skin or eyes or a rash while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor your complete medical history especially if you have a history of liver problems.

Alcohol may enhance the sedative side-effects. Limit alcohol intake.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Methyldopa appears in breast milk. Breast-feeding is not recommended. Consult with your doctor.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the drugs you are taking (both prescription and nonprescription), especially if you take lithium, MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, phenelzine, selegiline, tranylcypromine), levodopa for Parkinson's disease or medication to treat depression. Your dose may need to be adjusted. 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. Caffeine may also increase your blood pressure. Caffeine can be found in some nonprescription diet medications.

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.

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 moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom. Do not freeze liquid forms of this medication.