

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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METOPROLOL - ORAL EXTENDED RELEASE

OTHER NAMES: Lopressor

USES: This medication belongs to a class of drugs called beta-blockers. This medication slows the heart rate and reduces hypertension (high blood pressure). It is used in the treatment of angina (chest pain) and hypertension.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication exactly as prescribed usually once a day. Try to take it at the same time each day.

The tablet is scored and can be divided. However, the whole or half tablet should be swallowed whole. Do not crush or chew the tablet before swallowing.

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

SIDE EFFECTS: You may experience dizziness, lightheadedness, drowsiness, and blurred vision as your body adjusts to the medication. Use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness.

Because beta-blockers reduce blood circulation to the extremities, your hands and feet may be more susceptible to the cold. Dress warm.

Inform your doctor if you develop breathing difficulties, easy bruising or bleeding, swollen hands or feet, confusion or depression, or a sore throat while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: Before taking this drug, tell your doctor if you have a history of heart, kidney, or liver disease, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, or other lung disease, diabetes, or an overactive thyroid gland.

You may want to check your pulse every day while taking this medication. Discuss with your doctor what changes in your pulse rate mean.

Before having surgery, tell the doctor or dentist in charge that you are taking a beta-blocker.

This drug should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Beta-blockers do appear in breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor what medications you take,

especially diuretics, cold preparations and nasal decongestants, reserpine, and other heart or high blood pressure medications.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered, but not if it is within 4 hours of next dose. If it is, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the doses 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.