

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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MEXILETINE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Mexitil

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

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: This medication should be taken with food, milk or an antacid to prevent stomach upset.

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 throughout the day and night. Try to take each dose at the same time each day.

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

SIDE EFFECTS: Nausea, vomiting, heartburn, dizziness, tremor, changes in vision, nervousness, confusion, headache, fatigue, depression, changes in sleep habits, numbness or tingling especially of the hands or feet, ringing in the ears may occur as your body adjusts to the medication. If these symptoms persist or become bothersome, notify your doctor.

Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, rapid heartbeat, general weakness, yellowing of the eyes or skin, fever or sore throat while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor if you have congestive heart failure, low blood pressure, liver disease, a history of seizures or allergies, especially allergies to amide-type anesthetics (e.g., lidocaine, tocainamide) or other drugs.

Smoking can decrease the effects of this drug.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Small amounts of the medication pass into breast milk. Consult with your doctor about breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Drugs that may interact with mexiletine are: rifampin, theophylline, caffeine, phenytoin, metoclopramide, sodium bicarbonate, potassium citrate and ammonium chloride. Inform your doctor if you are taking any of these drugs or any other prescription or over-the-counter medication.

NOTES: Your doctor may want you to check your pulse rate every day while you take this medication. Learn how to monitor your

pulse.

MISSED DOSE: Take any missed dose as soon as possible but not if it is almost time for the next dose. If it is time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your regular schedule. Do not "double up" the dose.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature and keep 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.