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NISOLDIPINE SUSTAINED ACTION - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Sular

USES: This drug is a calcium channel blocker. Calcium is involved in muscle contraction. By blocking calcium, this medication relaxes the heart muscle and dilates the blood vessels which lowers blood pressure.

This drug is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: May be taken with or without food usually once daily. Do not take with a high fat meal.

Do not chew, divide or crush. Tablets should be swallowed whole preferably with a full glass of water.

Do not stop taking suddenly.

SIDE EFFECTS: This drug may cause dizziness and lightheadedness especially during the first few days. Avoid activities requiring alertness. When you sit or lie down for a while, get up slowly to minimize dizziness and allow your body to adjust.

You may also experience bloating, heartburn, nausea, blurred vision, muscle cramps, headache, flushing, sweating and sleep disturbances. These effects should disappear as your body adjusts to the medication. Inform your doctor if they become bothersome.

Notify your doctor if you develop breathing difficulties, rash, swelling of the hands or feet, weight gain, chest pain or an irregular heartbeat.

PRECAUTIONS: Before having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor that you take this drug. Tell your doctor of any diseases you have especially liver disease or if you've had congestive heart failure or if you have any allergies.

Limit using alcohol while taking this medication.

This medication should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. It is not known if this drug appears in breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Tell your doctor of all over-the-counter or prescription drugs you are taking especially other blood pressure medication or cimetidine.

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.

It is best to take this drug at least 2 hours before ingesting any grapefruit products. Alternatively, choose a different fruit product.

NOTES: 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 below 86 degrees F (30 degrees C) and 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.