

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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PRAZOSIN - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Minipress

USES: Prazosin relaxes and dilates (expands) blood vessels. It is used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension).

This drug may also be used for congestive heart failure or Raynaud's disease.

This drug may also be used in males for symptoms of prostate enlargement such as urinary hesitancy and/or urgency.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Try to take it at the same time each day. Take the first dose at bedtime, and be especially careful of unsteadiness if you must get up during the night.

Capsules may be taken with food or milk to avoid stomach upset.

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, constipation, loss of appetite, fatigue, nasal congestion or dry eyes 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. Also limit your intake of alcoholic beverages and avoid getting overheated which will aggravate these effects.

Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, difficulty breathing, difficulty urinating, skin rash, swelling of the hands or feet, or ringing in the ears while taking this medication.

Males: very unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if painful, prolonged erection occurs.

PRECAUTIONS: Tell your doctor your complete medical history especially if you have kidney problems.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Prazosin appears in breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the medicines you use (both prescription and nonprescription). Avoid any drugs that increase your heart rate or make you excited like decongestants

because it may counteract your blood pressure medicine. Decongestants are commonly found in over-the-counter cough and cold products.

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 or pharmacist.

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.

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.