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PROPAFENONE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Rhythmol

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

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: This medication is sometimes started in the hospital where your dose can be closely checked. It is important to take this medication exactly as prescribed. Do not increase or decrease your dose without your doctor's approval.

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, gas, loss of appetite, stomach cramps, dizziness, drowsiness, headache, weakness or changes in sleep habits may occur as your body adjusts to the medicine. Other side effects include muscle aches, sweating, dry mouth, tremors and unusual taste in the mouth. If any of these symptoms continue or become bothersome, inform your doctor.

Notify your doctor if you develop chest pain, a rapid heartbeat, blurred vision, unusual bleeding or bruising, skin rash, fever, sore throat, chills or have trouble breathing while taking this medication.

PRECAUTIONS: This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. It is not known if this medication appears in breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

Be sure your doctor or dentist knows your complete medical history especially if you are planning to undergo any medical or dental procedures.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the medicines you use (both prescription and nonprescription) especially if you take digoxin (Lanoxin), beta-blockers (usually for high blood pressure), cimetidine (Tagamet for ulcers), "blood thinners" warfarin (Coumadin), quinidine or rifampin because your dose may need to be altered.

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

Lab tests will be scheduled periodically to help monitor how effective the medication is. Keep all scheduled appointments and doctor visits.

Elderly persons are more sensitive to the effects of this medication. Use this with caution.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take it as soon as remembered if it is within 4 hours. If you remember later, 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.

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