

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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PROPRANOLOL - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Inderal

USES: This medication belongs to a class of drugs called "beta blockers". Propranolol (amongst other actions) slows the heart and reduces hypertension (high blood pressure). It is used in the treatment of angina (chest pain), hypertension, arrhythmias (irregular heartbeats), migraine headaches, tremors, "thyroid storm" and pheochromocytoma.

This drug may also be used to treat the side effects caused by the use of certain psychiatric drugs.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Try to take it at the same time(s) each day.

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 propranolol reduces 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: This drug should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Propranolol does appear in breast milk. Consult with your doctor before breast-feeding.

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 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.

Before having surgery, tell the doctor or dentist in charge that you are taking propranolol.

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 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 dose 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.