

# PATIENT INFORMATION

Medicine To Treat: \_\_\_\_\_

## **C**ardiac Diseases

### *Antiarrhythmic Agents*

- Sotalol*
- Flecainide Acetate*
- Propafenone*
- Amiodarone*



## **ABOUT YOUR MEDICINE**

Your doctor has just prescribed for you an antiarrhythmic agent, such as sotalol, flecainide acetate, propafenone and amiodarone.

## **WHAT ARE THE MEDICINES USED FOR?**

These medicines are used primarily to suppress and prevent the recurrence of abnormal heart rhythm.

## **HOW SHOULD I TAKE THE MEDICINE?**

Take your medicine by mouth with a drink of water. Follow the directions on the drug label. Take your doses at regular times. Always take the medicine either before or after meals.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FORGET A DOSE?**

Try not to miss doses. If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you can within 4 hours, 6 hours and 12 hours if your dosing schedule is thrice, twice and once daily, respectively. If it is after the 4 hours, 6 hours and 12 hours for the respective dosing intervals, do not take that missed dose. Just continue to take at the usual time for the next dosing interval. Do not double your dose at the next interval unless instructed by your doctor.

## **WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE MEDICINE?**

Uncommonly, this group of medicines may worsen existing abnormal heart rhythm or cause new abnormal heart rhythm including those, which can potentially be fatal. You may either experience severe slowing or irregular heart beat, severe giddiness or fainting spells.

***Keep all medication out of reach of children.***

MEDICINE	OTHER POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
Sotalol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fatigue, dizziness, nausea, vomiting and breathlessness</li> <li>• Urinary disturbances</li> <li>• Sexual dysfunction</li> <li>• Back pain, rashes, bleeding and visual disorder</li> </ul>
Flecainide acetate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dizziness, headache, fatigue</li> <li>• Visual disturbances</li> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Rashes</li> <li>• Breathlessness</li> </ul>
Propafenone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constipation, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting</li> <li>• Taste changes</li> <li>• Headache, dizziness, fatigue, fainting spell</li> <li>• Dry mouth</li> <li>• Blurred vision</li> <li>• Chest pain, breathlessness</li> </ul>
Amiodarone	<p>Amiodarone exhibits several systemic side-effects. Thus it is essential that you are on regular follow-up with your doctor.</p> <p>Amiodarone can impair lung function, and early symptoms include breathlessness on exertion, dry cough, fever, chest pain, lethargy and weakness.</p> <p>Amiodarone can impair liver function whose symptoms may include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, weight loss, jaundice and swelling of the abdomen.</p> <p>Amiodarone can impair thyroid function. Early symptoms include weight loss, anxiety, tremor and heat intolerance for those with increased thyroid function or cold intolerance, lethargy and slow heart rate if it is due to reduced thyroid function.</p>

Please inform your doctor as soon as you can if you notice any of the symptoms.

***Discard all medication that is outdated or no longer required.***



## **WHAT PRECAUTION SHOULD I TAKE?**

There are several drugs that interact with this group of medicines. As such it is not advisable to take it concurrently with traditional medications. You should inform the doctor that you are taking these medicines when consulting for any other illness.

There is currently no adequate information on using these medicines in pregnant women, and they should be used during pregnancy only when they are clearly needed.

This medicine is distributed into milk. Due to its potential for serious adverse effects in nursing infants, breast-feeding should be discontinued when taking this medicine.

## **HOW SHOULD I STORE MY MEDICINE?**

You should keep your medication in an airtight container in cool dry places.