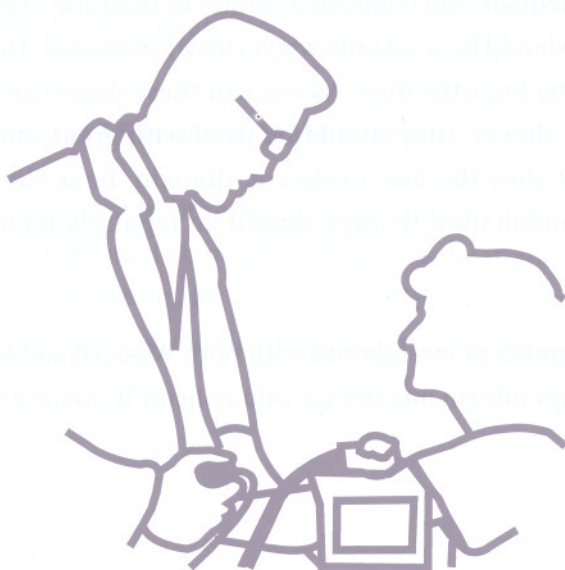


# PATIENT INFORMATION

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

## **H**ypertension

***Calcium Channel Blockers (Calcium Antagonists)***



## **WHAT ARE CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS USED FOR?**

These medicines relax smooth muscle cells in blood vessels causing the blood vessels to widen and hence lower blood pressure.

## **WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS?**

Constipation is the commonest side effect of this group of drugs. Some of these drugs can cause the heart rate to be slower. Leg swelling, flushing and headache are the less common side effects.

## **WHAT PRECAUTIONS SHOULD I TAKE?**

As there is no adequate and controlled studies of their use in pregnancy, these medicines should be used only when clearly indicated. They should not be used during breastfeeding. As some of these drugs can cause the heart rate to be slower, they should be used with great caution with other drugs that slow the heart rate e.g. digoxin, beta blockers and amiodarone. Combination therapy should be regularly monitored by your doctor.

There may be significant interactions with both Western and traditional medicines. Always inform any doctor you consult if you are on any of these medicines.

*Keep all medication out of reach of children.*

## **WHAT ARE THE COMMONLY USED CALCIUM CHANNEL BLOCKERS?**

- Nifedipine
- Verapamil
- Diltiazem

Long acting preparations of the above are available.

- Amlodipine

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

- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double the dosage.

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

- Unless instructed otherwise, store your medicines in a cool, dry place and protect them from moisture, heat and direct sunlight.
- Store medicine in the original labeled container. Do not keep different types of medicine together in one container.

*Discard all medication that is outdated or no longer required.*

