

# **Calcium Channel Blocker/ Antiarrhythmic Class IV**

## **MEDICATION GUIDE**

**Common Meds: Diltiazem, Cardiazem, Cardia XT, Dilacor-XR, Diltia XT, Taztia XT, Tiazac, cardiazem CD, Cardiazem SR, Dilacor, Diltia.**

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking this drug and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You and your healthcare provider should talk about this drug when you start taking it and at regular checkups.

### **What is the most important information I should know about this class of drugs?**

- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. This drug can cause dizziness or drowsiness. If you experience dizziness or drowsiness, avoid these activities.
- Do not stop taking this medication without first talking to your doctor. If you stop taking your medication, your condition could become worse.
- Follow any diet or exercise recommendations for your condition.
- Do not open, break, crush, or chew any extended-release forms of Cardizem such as Cardizem CD, Cardizem LA, Cardizem SR, Cartia XT, Diltia XT, or Dilacor XR. Swallow them whole.

### **What are Calcium channel blockers/Antiarrhythmics?**

- Channel blockers relax blood vessels, which makes it easier for your heart to pump and reduces the workload on it.
- They can be used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure), to treat angina (chest pain), and to slow unusually fast heartbeats.
- They may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

### **What should I discuss with my healthcare provider before taking this drug?**

- Before taking this medication, tell your doctor if you have
  - ever had an allergic reaction to any form of this drug in the past;
  - kidney disease;
  - liver disease; or
  - other diseases of the heart or blood vessels such as sick sinus syndrome, aortic stenosis, congestive heart failure, heart block, low blood pressure, or coronary artery disease.
- You may not be able to take this drug, or you may require a dosage adjustment or special monitoring during treatment if you have any of the conditions listed above.
- Do not take this drug without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant or could become pregnant during treatment.
- Do not take this drug without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

## How to take this drug?

- Take it exactly as directed by your doctor. If you do not understand these directions, ask your pharmacist, nurse, or doctor to explain them to you.
- Take each dose with a full glass of water.
- Do not open, break, crush, or chew any extended-release forms of this drug; they should be swallowed whole.
- It is important to take this drug regularly to get the most benefit.
- Do not stop taking this medication without first talking to your doctor.
- Your doctor may want you to have blood tests, blood pressure monitoring, or other medical evaluations during treatment with this drug.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice while taking this drug..

## What happens if I miss a dose?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take only the next regularly scheduled dose. **Do not** take a double dose of this medication.

## What should I avoid while taking this drug?

- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. This drug may cause dizziness or drowsiness. .
- Avoid alcohol.
- Follow any recommendations your doctor makes about diet or exercise.

## What are the possible side effects of this drug?

- Common side effects are:
  - fatigue or tiredness;
  - headache;
  - flushing (redness);
  - insomnia and vivid dreams;
  - nausea, diarrhea, or constipation;
  - difficulty urinating;
  - numbness; or
  - a rash.
- Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.