

Antidysrhythmics MEDICATION GUIDE

Common meds: Amiodarone, Cordarone, Pacerone, Adenocard, Adenoscan, Adenosine, Xylocaine, Xylocard, Atropine.

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 drug?

- In some cases, this drug has been associated with serious and even fatal side effects such as lung problems, liver problems, and new or worsening irregular heartbeats.
- Do not skip doses or change the dosing schedule without talking to your doctor.
- Do not consume grapefruit or grapefruit juice during treatment with this drug.
- Use caution when driving, operating machinery, or performing other hazardous activities. This drug can cause dizziness, drowsiness, or blurred vision..
- Avoid prolonged exposure to sunlight; it can cause the skin to turn a bluish-gray color. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when exposure to the sun is unavoidable.

What kind of drug is this?

- An antidysrhythmic medication affects the way that the heart beats, and is used to treat irregular heartbeats.
- It can 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 drug, tell your doctor if you
 - have any other type of heart disease or heart problems;
 - have liver disease;
 - have vision problems (especially optic neuritis);
 - have thyroid problems; or
 - need to have surgery.
 - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
 - are breastfeeding a baby

How should I 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.
- It can be taken with or without food. However, it should always be taken the same way, either with or without food.
- Do not consume grapefruit or grapefruit juice during treatment with this drug.
- Do not skip doses or change the dosing schedule without talking to your doctor. Missed or delayed doses could be harmful.
- Your doctor may want you to have blood tests or other medical evaluations during treatment with this drug to monitor progress and side effects.

What happens if I miss a dose?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. 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. A double dose could be dangerous; if you have any questions, call your healthcare provider.

What are the possible side effects of this drug?

- If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking this drug and seek emergency medical attention:
 - an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of the throat; swelling of the lips, tongue, or face; or hives);
 - a new or a worsening irregular heartbeat pattern;
 - wheezing, coughing, chest pain, or chest discomfort;
 - yellowing of the skin or eyes;
 - changes in vision, blurred vision, or decreased vision;
 - cough or shortness of breath;
 - fainting;
 - tremor or involuntary movements; or
 - skin rash;
- Other, less serious side effects may also occur. Continue to take this drug and talk to your doctor if you experience
 - dizziness or tiredness;
 - upset stomach, vomiting, decreased appetite, or diarrhea;
 - changes in taste;
 - poor coordination;
 - numbness, or tingling; or
 - bluish-gray discoloration of the skin.
- 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.