Flecainide

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it’s used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: Canada
APO-Flecainide; Auro-Flecainide; Tambocor

Warning

- This drug is only to be used to treat certain types of abnormal heartbeats. Other abnormal heartbeats have happened with this drug, which in rare cases can be deadly. This drug is not for use in people with certain types of abnormal heartbeats (chronic atrial fibrillation), or in people who have had a heart attack or heart failure. Talk to the doctor if you have any questions about this drug.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat certain types of abnormal heartbeats.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you have an allergy to flecainide or any other part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have had a recent heart attack.
- If you have heart block.
- If you have any of these health problems: Low potassium or magnesium
This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- If you have a pacemaker, talk with your doctor.
- In children with certain heart problems, heart attack and sudden death have happened with this drug. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may need to be started in a hospital where you will be closely watched. Talk with your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered,
or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Chest pain or pressure.
- Very bad dizziness or passing out.
- An abnormal heartbeat that is new or worse.
- Fast or slow heartbeat.
- Change in eyesight.
- Heart failure has happened with this drug, as well as heart failure that has gotten worse in people who already have it. Sometimes, this has been deadly. Tell your doctor if you have heart disease. Call your doctor right away if you have shortness of breath, a big weight gain, a heartbeat that is not normal, or swelling in the arms or legs that is new or worse.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Dizziness.
- Upset stomach.
- Feeling tired or weak.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Take with or without food.
Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else’s drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this
medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the
knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific
patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or
approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief
summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all
information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions,
interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This
information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you
receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare
provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this
medicine.

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team
directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after
5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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