

# CARVEDILOL

Other names: Dilatrend®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why you are taking this medicine?

Carvedilol belongs to the group of medicines known as beta-blockers. Beta-blockers are a group of medicines that slow down the heart and decrease the amount of work the heart has to do.

Carvedilol also acts as a vasodilator (relaxes the blood vessels). It is mainly used for the treatment of moderate or severe heart failure and high blood pressure.

## When to take this medicine

Carvedilol should be swallowed whole, with or without food.

- If you are a diabetic patient you may need to monitor your glucose (sugar) levels more closely when you begin to take carvedilol.
- Discuss with your doctor before taking this medication if you suffer from psoriasis, a common skin condition which typically causes red, scaly patches (plaques) of skin.

**DO NOT STOP** taking carvedilol without your doctor's permission. Stopping it suddenly can bring on high blood pressure or even a heart attack.

## If you miss a dose

Take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- slow or irregular heartbeat
- chest pain
- skin rash, severe itching or hives
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of legs or ankles
- tingling or numbness in hands/feet

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- dizziness
- headache, fatigue (tiredness) - particularly at the start of treatment
- nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting
- decreased sexual activity
- dry mouth
- dry eyes if you are a contact lens wearer
- trouble sleeping
- stuffy nose
- muscle cramps

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

### **Other Medication**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary medicines or those you can buy without a prescription.

Before taking carvedilol, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medications:

- digoxin (a medication used to treat arrhythmias and heart failure)
- rifampicin (antibiotic)
- calcium channel blockers (e.g. verapamil, diltiazem)
- clonidine (medication used to treat hypertension and migraines)
- antidepressants (e.g. fluoxetine)
- cyclosporin (a medicine often used in organ transplant patients)

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**