

FLECAINIDE

Other names: Tambocor®, Tambocor CR®



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

Flecainide belong to a group of medicines called antiarrhythmic medicines. An arrhythmia is an irregularity in your heartbeat, which causes the heart to skip a beat, beat irregularly, beat very fast or very slow. Flecainide works by correcting irregular heart beats to a normal heart rhythm and slows a fast beating heart.

When to take this medicine

Flecainide can be taken with food or antacids to avoid stomach upsets. They should be taken exactly as directed by your doctor.

The modified release capsule (e.g. Tambocor CR) should be swallowed whole and must not be broken or chewed.

DO NOT STOP taking flecainide without your doctor's permission, even if you feel well.

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 your 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
- fever or chills
- yellowing of your skin or eyes
- vision changes such as trouble focusing and seeing spots

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

- dizziness or light-headedness
- headache
- difficulty sleeping
- stomach upset e.g. stomach cramps, diarrhoea or constipation, nausea, vomiting or loss of appetite
- trembling or shaking
- tiredness or weakness
- unsteadiness or reduced co-ordination
- a change of mood (feeling nervous, anxious or depressed)
- pins and needles in the hands and feet
- a change in urinary frequency
- sweating and/or flushing of the skin

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

Flecainide can make your skin sensitive to the sun. You should avoid exposure to strong sunlight and use a sunscreen until you know how your skin reacts.

If flecainide makes you dizzy or drowsy, be careful when using machinery or driving a car.

Other Medicines

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

Before taking flecainide, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Digoxin (Lanoxin®) - a medicine used to treat arrhythmias and heart failure
- Amiodarone (Cordarone®) – a medicine to treat arrhythmias
- Beta-blocker medicine e.g. metoprolol – used to treat high blood pressure, arrhythmias or angina
- Cimetidine – reduces gastric acid secretion for conditions, such as stomach upset or ulcers in the gastro-intestinal tract or heartburn (reflux)
- Calcium channel blocker e.g. diltiazem – a medicine used to treat angina and arrhythmias

Prior to surgery of any kind tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking flecainide.

Pregnancy

Talk to your doctor before taking flecainide if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

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.