

INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

APO-CARVEDILOL

Carvedilol Tablets

Please read this information before you start to take your medicine. Keep this leaflet until you have finished all your tablets as you may need to read it again. If you are helping someone take APO-CARVEDILOL (carvedilol) tablets, read this leaflet before you give the first tablet. This leaflet does not contain all information about your medicine. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADVICE, PLEASE SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST.**

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT APO-CARVEDILOL

- APO-CARVEDILOL is used in the treatment of heart failure.
- APO-CARVEDILOL has been prescribed to you by your doctor to help manage your symptoms of heart failure.

WHAT YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING APO-CARVEDILOL

- all your medical conditions, including a history of heart, kidney or liver problems, asthma or breathing difficulties;
- if you suffer from diabetes, thyroid problems, Raynaud's phenomenon (coldness/spasm in the hands or feet) or cramping pains in the leg when exercising;
- if you suffer or have suffered from psoriasis (scaly red patches on the skin);
- any medications (prescription or non prescription) which you are taking, especially anti-hypertensives, digoxin, insulin, hypoglycaemics, stomach medication, tricyclic antidepressants, clonidine, and rifampin;
- tell the doctor if you change the amount of any other medicine you are taking;
- if you see another physician other than your heart doctor for another condition tell this physician that you are taking APO-CARVEDILOL;
- if you are pregnant or thinking about becoming pregnant, or if you are breast feeding.

HOW TO TAKE APO-CARVEDILOL

- **It is very important that you take APO-CARVEDILOL exactly as your doctor has instructed.** The doctor will decide how many tablets you need to take each day, when and for how long. It may be necessary for the doctor to increase or decrease the dose.
- You should swallow the tablets whole with water. Do not chew or break your tablet.
- Take your tablets at the same time each day. You should take APO-CARVEDILOL with food.
- If you forget to take a tablet, take it as soon as you remember. If possible, take your next dose at the normal time, but do not take two doses within 6 hours of each other.
- If you miss more than two doses of APO-CARVEDILOL, contact your doctor for instructions. Do not re-start APO-CARVEDILOL until you have spoken to the doctor.
- Do NOT stop taking APO-CARVEDILOL without first consulting with your doctor.

Remember: This medicine is for the person named by the doctor. Do not give it to anybody else.

WHEN NOT TO USE APO-CARVEDILOL

- You should not take this medicine if you are pregnant or if you plan on being pregnant unless the doctor tells you to.
- Do not use APO-CARVEDILOL if you are allergic to it or any of the components of its formulation (see list of components at the end of this section). If you become unwell while taking APO-CARVEDILOL tell your doctor at once.

PRECAUTIONS WHEN TAKING APO-CARVEDILOL

- Some people may have unwanted effects when taking APO-CARVEDILOL. Dizziness, headache and tiredness are the most common and often occur when APO-CARVEDILOL is started or when the dose of APO-CARVEDILOL is changed. These symptoms generally go away with continued use. If they do not or appear to become more severe, then tell your doctor.
- Other possible effects are: stomach complaints such as diarrhea, constipation, nausea and vomiting, allergic reactions such as rashes and hot or itching skin, pain in the side, passing water more or less frequently, breathing problems such as wheezing, breathlessness and stuffy nose, depressed mood, sleep disturbance, dry mouth, slowing of heart rate, dizziness when standing up, fainting, cold or painful hands and feet, general swelling of parts of the body, weight gain, impotence, blurred vision, cramping pain on exercise.
- If suffering from Raynaud's phenomenon (cold hands or feet with changes in color) an increase in symptoms of coldness/spasms in the hands may be seen.
- Psoriasis (scaly patches on the skin) may occur or, if you already have psoriasis, it may become worse.
- If you are diabetic you could become less aware of symptoms of hypoglycemia. You should monitor your blood sugar more carefully. Tell your doctor if you see any appreciable changes.
- If you wear contact lenses you may suffer from dryness of the eyes while taking your tablets.
- If you develop any unusual discomfort, tell the doctor as soon as possible, especially if you have unusual dizziness, ankle swelling, tiredness or breathlessness when your dose is being increased.
- If you experience dizziness or fatigue while taking your tablets, do not drive or operate machinery.
- You should be especially careful when starting or changing the dose of APO-CARVEDILOL.
- APO-CARVEDILOL should not be taken with alcohol.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF OVERDOSE

- If you have taken more tablets than the recommended dose, tell your doctor or the nearest hospital emergency department immediately. Show the doctor your bottle of tablets and any other medications you are taking.

HOW TO STORE APO-CARVEDILOL

- Store your tablets at room temperature (15-30°C) in a dry place. Protect from high humidity and light.
- Keep container tightly closed.
- Do not use the medicine if it has expired.
- Keep out of reach of children.

WHAT DOES APO-CARVEDILOL CONTAIN

- APO-CARVEDILOL (carvedilol) is available in 3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg and 25 mg oval white tablets. Carvedilol is the active ingredient. Non-medicinal ingredients include: lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, hydroxyethyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol, and titanium dioxide. They do not contain tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

WHO MANUFACTURES APO-CARVEDILOL

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REMINDERS:

This medicine has been prescribed only for you. Do not give it to anybody else.

If you require any further information or advice please consult your doctor or pharmacist.

