

# Medication Information

## Beta Blocker

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### Other names for this medication

Acebutol	Nadolol
Atenolol	Pindolol
Bisoprolol	Propranolol
Carvedilol	Sotalol
Labetalol	Timolol
Metoprolol	

There are many other names for this medication.

### How this medication is used

This medication causes your heart to beat slower. This helps rest the heart after a heart attack. This medication helps prevent and/or reduce chest pain and irregular heart beats. It does not stop chest pain or angina after the pain has started.

Bisoprolol, Carvedilol and Metoprolol can be used to prevent heart failure. They work by relaxing the blood vessels. This allows more blood to go to the heart. The more blood that goes to the heart, the more oxygen the heart gets. This helps the heart work better.

Some of these medications are used to treat high blood pressure, migraine headaches and muscle tremors.

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## How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor or health care provider. It must be taken regularly, even if you feel well.

Do not suddenly stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor or health care provider first. Suddenly stopping this medication can cause:

- chest pain
- irregular heart beats
- high blood pressure.

When it is time to stop taking this medication your doctor or health care provider may slowly decrease the amount.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

**Long-Acting Capsules or Tablets:** Swallow the capsules or tablets whole with a full glass of water or liquid. Do not crush, chew or suck the capsules or tablets.

Grapefruit increases the effect of the Carvedilol. Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking Carvedilol.

## While taking this medication you may notice

- a slower heart beat
- nausea
- diarrhea
- tingling scalp
- tiredness or weakness
- dizziness

To avoid feeling dizzy, get up slowly when you have been sitting or lying down. If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you are no longer dizzy, then get up slowly.

## Contact your doctor or health care provider if you notice

- chest pain
- coughing or wheezing
- diarrhea
- trouble sleeping
- nightmares
- very cold hands or feet
- skin rash
- mood changes unusual for you
- trouble breathing
- fainting
- you feel less interested or able to have sex
- extreme tiredness
- severe swelling of ankles and lower legs

If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your doctor or health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.