



Beta Blockers

Drug name	Brand Name		
Atenolol	Tensig	Tenormin	Noten
	Anselol	Atehexal	Gen Rx Atenolol
Bisoprolol	Bicor		
Carvedilol	Dilatrend		Kredex
Labetolol	Presolol		Trandate
Metoprolol	Metrol	Metohexal	Minax
	Lopresor	Metoprolol BC	Gen Rx Metoprolol
	Toprol XL	Betaloc	
Propranalol	Inderal		Deralin
Sotalol	Solavert	Sotacor	Cardol
		Sotahexal	Gen Rx Sotolol

What is it used for?

Beta blockers are used to treat high blood pressure, help prevent angina, irregular heart rhythms and to reduce complications after a heart attack. Beta blockers open up blood vessels, which reduces blood pressure, and prevents some nerve impulses from speeding up your heart beat. This also prevents the heart from working too hard.

How to take this drug

This medication must be taken regularly. If a dose is missed, only take the dose if you remember within three hours. If not, do not take the missed dose, and take the next dose when it is due normally. Do not take two doses at once.

Take this medication only as the directions say on the pharmacy label.

Before taking this medication it is important to tell your doctor if you:

- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, are breast feeding
- Have had previous allergic reactions to other beta blockers
- Have asthma, or other difficulties breathing
- Have low blood pressure
- Have muscle weakness
- Have kidney, liver disease or diabetes

Side Effects

Side effects occur in some people taking this medication. If they are troublesome to you, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

- Drowsiness/tiredness, trembling/shaking
- Headache, aches/pains, flushes
- Difficulty sleeping, confusion
- Mood changes, depression
- Loss of appetite/nausea, weight gain, stomach upset, diarrhoea, constipation
- Problems with sexual function

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Healthy Living NT
 is the trading name of the
 Diabetes Association
 of the Northern Territory
 Incorporated.

Other important factors

- Dizziness/light-headedness may occur if you get up suddenly. This is due to the effect of the drugs on your blood pressure.
- Always make sure you get up slowly from a lying or sitting position
- Your doctor or dentist needs to know you are on this medication before any procedures or operations
- Tell your doctor all the medications you take including those you get without prescriptions
- Never share your medications with anyone
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children

**If you have any queries about your medications, talk to your Doctor or pharmacist.
This information is only designed for use as an educational aid and is general in nature.**

This resource was produced using information from Consumer Medical Information and assistance from Royal Darwin Hospital Pharmacy.