

Amiodarone



The Heart Centre

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2120 • 1-888-300-3088
Emergency call: 604-875-2161
(ask for Cardiologist on call)
www.bcchildrens.ca

What is Amiodarone? (Cordarone)

Amiodarone (a-MEE-oh-da-rone) is a medication that may be used to control or prevent abnormal heart rhythms. The most common use is for supraventricular tachycardia (SVT). It belongs to a class of medications called antiarrhythmics. It comes in tablet and liquid (suspension) form.

How do I give this medicine?

- ▶ Shake well if in liquid form.
- ▶ Give ___ mL or ___ tablet(s) (= ____mg) by mouth/NG/GT ___ times a day.
- ▶ Give with food or after a feeding.

How is this medication stored?

- ▶ Store liquid in fridge
- ▶ Tablets should be stored at room temperature away from direct sunlight.
- ▶ Keep tablets away from moist or damp places
- ▶ Keep medication out of the reach of small children

What should I do if a dose is missed?

- ▶ Give the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the normal time.
- ▶ Do **not** double up the dose.
- ▶ If your child vomits within 5 minutes after a dose - give a new dose. If longer than 5 minutes then wait until next normal medication time.

Possible common side effects:

- Strange or metallic taste in mouth
- Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite
- Thyroid problems
- Skin colour changes, sensitivity to sun
- Higher chance of abnormal heart rhythm

Call cardiologist, cardiology clinic or seek care if your child has any of the following:

- ▶ Skin rash or skin color change
- ▶ Changes in vision, blurred vision or pain with exposure to light
- ▶ Any new symptoms that seem different from your usual heart symptoms



Call 911 if any new problems with breathing or shortness of breath.

Other notes or special instructions:

- If the child has taken or been given an extra dose and you are worried call Healthlink BC at 811
- If your child accidentally has taken or been given an overdose call :



BC Drug and Poison Centre :
1-800-567-8911 • 604 -682-5050

- ▶ Amiodarone may cause the skin to burn more easily in the sun. Make sure your child has plenty sun protection and wears sunscreen with SPF 15.
- ▶ Your doctor will likely order ECG monitoring while on this medication.
- ▶ Your doctor will order bloodwork for your child to check thyroid and liver function. A chest x ray may also be needed.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medication, over the counter medication or herbal product. Amiodarone can interact with many medications.
- ▶ Don't give with grapefruit juice. This can lead to greater effect of amiodarone.
- ▶ Amiodarone liquid must be made in a specialized pharmacy. Check that your pharmacy is able to make amiodarone for your child.
- ▶ Check the expiry date of liquid.

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