

Procainamide



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 Procainamide (Procan, Apo-Procainamide)?

Procainamide (pro-KANE-a-mide) is a medication that may be used to control or prevent abnormal heart rhythms. The most common use is supraventricular tachycardia (SVT). It belongs to a group of antiarrhythmic drugs called sodium channel blockers.

Procainamide comes in tablet and liquid (suspension) form.

How do I give this medicine?

- ▶ Shake well if liquid form
- ▶ Give ___ mL or ___ tablet(s) (= _____mg) _____ times a day by mouth/NG or GT
- ▶ Give at equally spaced intervals

How is this medication stored?

- ▶ Keep tablets at room temperature away from moist and damp places
- ▶ Keep medication out of the reach of small children

What should I do if a dose is missed?

- ▶ **Ask your pharmacist.** You may be able to give the missed dose as soon as you remember. But if it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the missed dose - give the next dose at the normal time.
- ▶ Do **not** double up the dose.
- ▶ If your child vomits within 15 minutes after a dose - give a new dose. If longer than 15 minutes then wait until next normal medication time.

Possible common side effects:

- Greater chance of a new abnormal rhythm
- Dizziness due to low blood pressure
- Strange taste
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea (feeling sick to stomach), vomiting

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

- ▶ Skin rash
- ▶ Reduced food intake due to poor appetite
- ▶ Any new symptoms that seem different from your usual heart symptoms
- ▶ Joint pain, fever, swollen lymph nodes and rash

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

- ▶ Your doctor will order ECG monitoring when starting this medication.
- ▶ Your doctor may also order bloodwork while on this medication.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications, over the counter medication, or herbal products
- ▶ This medication can lower blood pressure. Ask your child to get out of bed or stand up slowly.
- ▶ Procainamide liquid must be made in a specialized pharmacy. Check that your pharmacy is able to make procainamide for your child.
- ▶ Check the expiry date of the liquid.

Developed by the Departments of Pharmacy and Cardiology with assistance from the Department of Learning & Development.

References: upon request • Last updated: Apr.22.2016