

Propafenone



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 Propafenone (Rhythmol, Apo-Propafenone)?

Propafenone (pro-PAF-en-one) is a medication used to control or prevent abnormal heart rhythms. It belongs to a group of medications called antiarrhythmics. The most common use is in supraventricular tachycardia (SVT).

Propafenone 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 the same time every day at equally spaced times
- ▶ May be given with or without food but if upset stomach may give it after food or a feeding

How is this medication stored?

- ▶ Store liquid in fridge
- ▶ Keep tablets at room temperature away from moist or damp places
- ▶ Keep medication out of the reach of small children

What should I do if a dose is missed?

- ▶ **Ask your pharmacist if you should give a missed dose.** 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 heart rhythm
- Fatigue (tired)
- Nausea or upset stomach, constipation
- Strange taste
- Dizziness or lightheaded due to low blood pressure

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

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

- ▶ Don't give with Grapefruit juice. This can lead to greater effect of propafenone.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications, over the counter medication, or herbals.
- ▶ This medication can lower blood pressure. Ask your child to get out of bed or stand up slowly.
- ▶ Propafenone liquid must be made in a specialized pharmacy. Check that your pharmacy is able to make propafenone 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.28.2016