

Propranolol



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 Propranolol (Lopresor, Apo-Propranolol, Novo-Propranolol)?

Propranolol (proe-PRAN-oh-lole) is a medication that is used to control or prevent abnormal heart rhythms or high blood pressure. It can also be used to treat blue spells in children with Tetralogy of Fallot. It belongs to a class of medications called beta blockers.

Propranolol 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 with or after food or a feeding to lower the risk of low blood sugar

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:

- Dizziness due to low blood pressure
- Nausea, upset stomach
- Headache, fatigue (tired)
- Cold hands and feet
- Problems sleeping, bad dreams, or change in mood

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

- ▶ Shortness of breath, wheezing
- ▶ Skin rash
- ▶ Any new symptoms that seem different from your usual heart symptoms
- ▶ Poor feeding or lethargy (tired) (consider low blood sugar)



Call 911 if any new onset of shortness of breath or wheezing.

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

- ▶ This medication can lower blood pressure. Ask your child to get out of bed or stand up slowly.
- ▶ It is important not to stop taking propranolol suddenly.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medication, over the counter medication or herbal product.
- ▶ Propranolol liquid must be made by a specialized pharmacy. Make sure your pharmacy is able to make propranolol for your child.
- ▶ Check the expiry date of the liquid.