



Dronedarone (Multaq ®)

What is dronedarone?

- ♥ Dronedarone is a member of a group of medications called “anti-arrhythmics” that help the heart beat regularly.

What is dronedarone used for?

- ♥ Your heart has an electrical system made up of cells that are sometimes disorganized causing irregular heartbeats.
- ♥ Dronedarone works to keep you safe by controlling these heartbeats and stabilizing the system.
- ♥ It is used to treat abnormal/ irregular heart rhythms like:
 - Atrial Fibrillation
 - Atrial Flutter

How does dronedarone help with abnormal heartbeats?

- ♥ It changes or “converts” your irregular heartbeat to a regular one, also called sinus (normal) rhythm.
- ♥ Dronedarone reduces:
 - The number of times you have an irregular heartbeat
 - The time an irregular heartbeat lasts
 - Heart rate
- ♥ It helps to make you feel better by reducing the side effects or symptoms of an irregular heartbeat.

How should I take my dronedarone?

- ♥ Take this medication regularly, evenly throughout the day as prescribed by your health care provider.
- ♥ Dronedarone should be taken with food.
- ♥ Do not stop taking dronedarone without instruction from your health care provider.

What if you miss taking a dose?

- ♥ If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next scheduled dose.
- ♥ Never take two doses at the same time.
- ♥ If you have questions about taking your medications, or missed doses, contact your pharmacist or your health care provider. In British Columbia, you can also call 8-1-1.

Do not take any of the following without checking with your pharmacist or health care provider:

- Cough or cold medicines
- Vitamins or supplements
- Herbal or naturopathic remedies.
- Traditional Chinese medicines
- Grapefruit/grapefruit juice
- Other “over-the-counter” medicines you can buy.



Did you know?



It can take several weeks, before you notice your heart rhythm improving and you start feeling better.

Common Side Effects

It is important to talk with your health care provider about side effects and how best to deal with them. Most will improve with time. Contact your health care provider if any of these side effects do not go away or get worse.

Diarrhea	Nausea, indigestion
Dizziness	Feeling tired all the time

Medication Tips

- ♥ Dronedarone can sometimes cause dizziness or drowsiness; be careful when driving or using hazardous machinery until you know how this medication affects you. 
- ♥ To lower the chance of feeling dizzy, rise slowly from sitting or lying down.
- ♥ Dronedarone can sometimes affect your liver. Watch for and contact your health care provider if you have any of the following:
 - Dark urine
 - Loss of appetite
 - Stomach pain
 - Light-coloured stools
 - Vomiting
 - Yellow skin or eyes.
- ♥ Dronedarone can sometimes interact with medications taken for other health conditions. 
- ♥ Your health care provider may need to adjust doses to ensure all your medications are safe and effective.
- ♥ Please check with your pharmacist before starting any new medication.

Contact your health care provider right away if you have any of these signs:

- Shortness of breath
- New or worsening feelings of a fast-beating, or pounding heart
- Dry cough that does not resolve
- Yellowing of skin or eyes
- Fainting
- Leg swelling or sudden weight gain
- ♥ If you have any other medical conditions, are pregnant or breastfeeding, it is important to tell your health care provider before starting medications.
- ♥ Alcohol can impact both your medications and your health condition. Speak to your care provider about alcohol use.

Health Provider contact information

To learn more about dronedarone, go to the HealthLinkBC web site (www.healthlinkbc.ca) or call 8-1-1.

