



Flecainide (Tambocor®)

What is flecainide?

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

What is flecainide used for?

- ♥ Your heart has an electrical system made up of cells that are sometimes disorganized causing irregular heartbeats.
- ♥ Flecainide 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
 - Ventricular Tachycardia

How does flecainide help with abnormal heartbeats?

- ♥ It changes or “converts” your irregular heartbeat to a regular one, also called sinus (normal) rhythm.
- ♥ Flecainide 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 of an irregular heartbeat.

How should I take my flecainide?

- ♥ Take this medication regularly, evenly throughout the day as prescribed by your health care provider. It can be taken with or without food.
- ♥ It is often taken with another drug that is used to control your heart rate.
- ♥ Do not stop taking flecainide without instruction from your health care provider.

What if you miss taking a dose?

- ♥ If it is almost time for you 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/ 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/health care provider:

- Tobacco
- Vitamins or supplements
- Herbal or naturopathic remedies
- Traditional Chinese medicines
- 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.

Dizziness/light-headedness	Nausea
Headache	Trembling hands
Blurred vision	Tiredness

Medication Tips

- ♥ This medication 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.
- ♥ It is important to drink adequate fluids and stay well hydrated.
- ♥ If you are sick and unable to drink enough fluid to stay hydrated (i.e. diarrhea or vomiting), contact your health care provider as your Flecainide may need to be stopped until you recover.
- ♥ Flecainide 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 if you have any of these signs:
 - Shortness of breath
 - New or worsening feelings of a fast-beating, or pounding heart
 - Fainting
 - Chest pain or pressure
 - Unexplained fever
 - Swelling of legs 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 flecainide, go to the HealthLinkBC web site (www.healthlinkbc.ca) or call 8-1-1.

