

Sotalol (Sotacor®)

What is sotalol?

Sotalol belongs to a group of medications known as beta-blockers used for its effect on the rhythm of the heart. It is available only on a doctor's prescription.

What is it for?

Sotalol is used to treat various heart conditions including an irregular heartbeat.

How to take this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people.

Since sotalol is used to treat long term conditions, it is important that you continue to give Sotalol to your child every day

In children, the dose is usually given two to three times a day. It is best given on an empty stomach.

Treatment is started at low doses and increased at weekly intervals. It may take several weeks before maximum effect is reached.

The Pharmacy Department at this hospital can make a mixture to administer smaller doses to children. Your pharmacist will advise you if this product has been manufactured for your child. Make sure you measure the dose as accurately as possible using an oral syringe.

Shake the mixture well before drawing up the dose and ensure there is no sediment in the mixture as it may form during storage.

What to do if a dose is missed

If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, give the medication as soon as you remember and then go back to giving the medicine as usual.

Storing the medication

It is important to keep sotalol locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in any other damp, warm place because this may make them less effective.

Sotalol mixture should be stored below 25 degrees Celsius.

Use of other medication

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicine. This includes those you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.



Important Information

If your child has asthma, bronchitis or allergies that cause wheezing, please advise your child's doctor, as sotalol may worsen these conditions.

If your child is to have surgery, the anaesthetist must be told that sotalol is being given.

Your child may experience dizziness or drowsiness while taking sotalol. Your child should avoid risky activities until you know how this medicine will affect them.

Your doctor will monitor for low blood glucose (sugar) levels when starting sotalol in babies and infants.

Regular review of blood pressure and heart rate is required when taking sotalol. Your child's doctor will decide if any other tests are required.

Do not stop giving sotalol suddenly. The dose of sotalol should be gradually reduced under supervision by your doctor.

Possible side-effects

Sotalol is usually well-tolerated and side-effects may last only a short time.

Less serious side effects include:

- headache, nausea, diarrhoea
- flatulence or heartburn
- dizziness, tiredness or weakness
- cold hands or feet
- skin rash.

Contact the doctor immediately if any of the following occur:

- breathing difficulties
- slow heartbeat
- chest pain
- low blood pressure (dizziness, fainting).

If you have any concerns, contact your child's doctor or the PCH Pharmacy Department

Dispensary: 6456 3558

Paediatric Medicines Information Services: 6456 0190 – select option 1

In case of overdose or poisoning, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

Child and Adolescent Health Service

15 Hospital Avenue, Nedlands, WA, 6009

Telephone: (08) 6456 0190

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