

Ranolazine

Medication Information Leaflet

What is this medication for?

This medication is used to prevent and treat the symptoms of chest pain (angina). It is usually used for patients who are still experiencing symptoms of chest pain or cannot tolerate other anti-angina medications such as beta-blockers and/or calcium channel blockers.

When you take this medication regularly on a long term basis, it may help to reduce the number of times you experience chest pain.

How should I take/use this medication?

- Do not stop taking your medication without checking with your healthcare professional.
- You may take this medication with or without food.
- Swallow the tablet whole. Do not crush, break or chew the tablet.

What should I do if I forget to take/use this medication?

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Then take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take two doses to make up for the missed dose.

What precautions should I take?

Inform your healthcare professional if:

- You are allergic to this medication or any of the other ingredients of this medication.
- You are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- You are taking any other medications, including supplements, traditional medications and herbal remedies.
- You have an abnormal heart condition known as acquired QT interval prolongation.
- You have liver or kidney problems.

What are some common side-effects of this medication?

- Headache, dizziness
 - Try to avoid sudden changes in posture – stand up slowly from sitting or lying position, and sit or lie down if you feel giddy
- Constipation, vomiting, nausea
- Abnormal physical weakness or lack of energy

What are some rare but serious side-effects that I need to seek medical advice immediately?

Ranolazine may slow down your heartbeats, or cause new irregular heartbeats. Symptoms of abnormal heart rhythm include one or more of the following:

- Irregular heartbeat e.g. slowed heartbeat or palpitations (feels like your heart is racing, pounding, skipping a beat)
- Severe dizziness or fainting spells

The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following:

- Swollen face/eyes/lips/tongue
- Difficulty in breathing
- Itchy skin rashes over your whole body

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medication and see your healthcare professional immediately.

What food or medication should I avoid when I take this medication?

Avoid taking grapefruit or its juice when you are taking this medication as grapefruit may interact with your medication and increase the risk of side-effects.

Some medications may interact with ranolazine and affect their effectiveness or increase the risk of side-effects. However, these medications may also be important for your treatment. Inform your healthcare professional of the other medications you are currently taking. Examples include:

- Certain medications used in the treatment of other heart conditions (e.g. verapamil, diltiazem, sotalol, simvastatin)
- Cyclosporine, a medication for suppression of the immune system

- Medications for viral infections (e.g. ritonavir)
- Medications for bacterial infections (e.g. clarithromycin, erythromycin)
- Medications for fungal infections (e.g. itraconazole, ketoconazole)

Consult your healthcare professional if you are unsure whether your existing medications can be taken together with this medication.

How should I store this medication?

Store in a cool and dry place, away from direct sunlight. Keep this medication away from children.

How should I throw away this medication safely?

Pack this medication into a black trash bag and seal it tightly before throwing into the rubbish chute or bin.

Disclaimers

If you take more than the recommended dose, please seek medical advice immediately. The information provided on this page does not replace information from your healthcare professional. Please consult your healthcare professional for more information.

This article is jointly developed by members of the National Medication Information workgroup. The workgroup consists of cluster partners (National Healthcare Group, National University Health System and SingHealth), community pharmacies (Guardian, Unity and Watsons) and Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore.

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