

BETALOC[®] INJECTION

Metoprolol tartrate

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about BETALOC INJECTION. It does not contain all the information that is known about BETALOC INJECTION.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor will have weighed the risks of your being given BETALOC INJECTION against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

This medicine is likely to be used in emergency situations where you may be unconscious. If possible, please read this leaflet carefully before this medicine is given to you. In some cases this leaflet may be given after the medicine has been used.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What BETALOC INJECTION is for

BETALOC INJECTION belongs to a group of medicines called beta-blockers.

BETALOC INJECTION is used to treat irregular heart beat, also known as arrhythmia, which means that there is a disturbance of the heart's normal rhythm or beat.

Arrhythmias may be caused by a number of factors, including some heart diseases, an overactive thyroid gland, or chemical imbalances. Also, after a heart attack there is a chance of developing arrhythmias.

BETALOC INJECTION helps to restore your heart beat to a more normal rate, particularly if it is beating very fast.

Your doctor may have prescribed this medicine for another reason.

Your doctor will have explained why you are being treated with BETALOC INJECTION and told you what dose you will be given.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why BETALOC INJECTION has been prescribed for you.

BETALOC INJECTION is not addictive.

Before you are given BETALOC INJECTION

When you must not take it

Do not take BETALOC tablets if:

- 1. you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant**

BETALOC may affect your baby if you are given it early in pregnancy or in the last weeks before your baby is due.

- 2. you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed**

BETALOC passes into breast milk and therefore there is a possibility that the breast-fed baby may be affected.

BETALOC INJECTION should not be used if the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

It may have no effect at all, or worse, an entirely unexpected effect if it is used after the expiry date.

Do not use BETALOC INJECTION if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not give BETALOC INJECTION to children.

The safety and effectiveness of BETALOC INJECTION in children has not been established.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if:

- 1. you have any allergies to**

- BETALOC or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- any other medicine or other beta-blocker medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes

- 2. you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- diabetes
- an overactive thyroid gland
- liver problems
- kidney problems

- certain types of angina
- any other heart problems
- phaeochromocytoma

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given BETALOC INJECTION.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including

- other beta-blocker medicines, including beta-blocker eye drops.
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure or angina
- medicines used to treat heart problems
- insulin and tablets used to treat diabetes
- medicines used to treat depression
- medicines that you buy without a prescription at the chemist, supermarket or health food shop.

These medicines may be affected by BETALOC INJECTION or may affect how well it works.

You may need to be given different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to be given different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Your doctor has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using BETALOC INJECTION

How BETALOC INJECTION is given

BETALOC INJECTION is given as a slow injection into a vein.

BETALOC INJECTION must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

Your doctor will decide what dose and for how long you will receive BETALOC INJECTION. This depends on your condition and other factors, such as your weight.

To begin treatment, up to 5mg of BETALOC INJECTION is given at a rate of 1 to 2mg per minute. This dose may be repeated at 5-minute intervals until a satisfactory effect is achieved.

Your blood pressure and ECG will be monitored during the treatment.

If you are given too much

The doctor giving you BETALOC will be experienced in its use, so it is unlikely that you will be given an overdose.

However, if you are accidentally given an overdose of BETALOC INJECTION you may have nausea, vomiting, convulsions, extreme slowing of the heart beat, lowered blood pressure, possible heart failure and breathing difficulties. In extreme cases, your skin may turn blue, and you may get shock, unconsciousness or coma. Your doctor has information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor if you have any concerns.

Side effects

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given BETALOC INJECTION.

BETALOC INJECTION helps most people with irregular heart beat, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or nurse if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- swelling, burning sensation, changes in skin colour or texture where you had the injection
- swelling or pain in a vein
- headache, tiredness, drowsiness
- aches and pains, painful joints
- nausea (feeling sick), vomiting
- weakness, lack of energy
- stomach upset, diarrhoea or constipation
- dry mouth, changes in taste sensation
- difficulty sleeping, nightmares
- mood changes
- confusion, short-term memory loss, inability to concentrate
- increased sweating, runny or blocked nose
- hair loss
- weight gain

These side effects are usually mild.

Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you notice any of the following:

- dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting especially on standing up
- tingling or "pins and needles"
- skin rash or worsening of psoriasis
- symptoms of sunburn happening more quickly than before
- abnormal thinking or hallucinations
- buzzing or ringing in the ears, deafness
- irritated eyes or blurred vision
- sexual problems

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor or nurse immediately:

- shortness of breath, being less able to exercise
- swelling of the ankles, feet or legs
- chest tightness, wheezing, noisy breathing

- chest pain, changes in heart rate or palpitations
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), generally feeling unwell
- constant "flu-like" symptoms with tiredness or lack of energy

These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are rare.

Some people may get other side effects while being given BETALOC INJECTION.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After using BETALOC INJECTION

Storage

BETALOC INJECTION will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward.

The injection is kept in a cool dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 25 degrees C.

Product description

What BETALOC INJECTION looks like

BETALOC INJECTION is a clear, colourless liquid in glass ampoules of 5mL, in packs of 5.

Ingredients

BETALOC INJECTION does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Each BETALOC INJECTION contains metoprolol tartrate as the active ingredient;

plus

Sodium chloride

Water for injections

Manufacturer

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