

About your medication

ATENOLOL

(NOTEN[®] 50mg tablets, TENSIG[®]
50mg tablets, TENORMIN[®] 50mg
tablets)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS MEDICINE NAME?

Atenolol is a medication known as a beta blocker. It is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

Atenolol is used for its effect on the rhythm of the heart. It can be used to treat irregular heartbeats or high blood pressure. Your child's doctor may have prescribed atenolol for a different reason; check with your child's doctor if unsure.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that Atenolol is given only as directed and not given to other people.

In children, Atenolol is usually given once or twice a day, at the same times each day.

It does not matter if Atenolol is given with food or on an empty stomach.

Treatment is usually started at a low dose and slowly increased over several weeks until the maximum effect is reached.

The tablets can be crushed or swallowed whole.

The Pharmacy Department at this hospital may make a mixture for small doses in children. Your pharmacist will advise you which product is suitable for your child. If using the mixture, make sure you measure the dose as accurately as possible using an oral syringe.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of Atenolol it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take it if it is less than 6 hours before the next dose. **Do not double-up on any doses.**

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep Atenolol locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the (tablets/mixture) in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using Atenolol with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. caffeine in soft drinks).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Your child's doctor should know if your child has asthma, bronchitis or allergies that cause wheezing.

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

Your child may experience dizziness or drowsiness while taking Atenolol. Care must be taken with activities like riding bikes or climbing trees, until you know how this medicine will affect your child.

Your child's doctor will monitor for low blood glucose (sugar) levels when starting Atenolol in babies and infants.

Do not stop giving Atenolol without first checking with your child's doctor. The medicine is usually withdrawn slowly. Do not let yourself run out of tablets or mixture especially over weekends or public holidays.

The RCH pharmacy may prepare special dosage forms (e.g. mixtures) if you have a prescription written by an RCH doctor. *These may take some time to prepare, so **please notify the RCH pharmacy 3-5 working days in advance.***

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking Atenolol. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- Headache, dizziness, tiredness or weakness
- Nausea, diarrhoea, flatulence or heartburn
- Cold hands or feet, tingling or numbness
- Problems with sleeping or unusual dreams
- Anxiety or mood changes

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- Breathing difficulties
- Slow heart beats
- Chest pain
- Low blood pressure (fainting)

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Skin rash, swelling of the lips, mouth, throat, wheezing or difficulty breathing.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



The Royal **Children's**
Hospital Melbourne

***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your/your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your/your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – AUGUST 2012
