

## ***About your medication***

# **SOTALOL**

(SOTACOR® , SOLAVERT®  
80mg and 160mg tablets  
CARDOL® 160mg tablets)

*Other brands may be available*

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## WHAT IS SOTALOL?

Sotalol is a medication known as a beta-blocker used for its effect on the rhythm of the heart. It is available only on a doctor's prescription.

## WHAT IS IT FOR?

It is used to treat an irregular heartbeat.

## HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

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

In children, the dose is usually given two to three times a day.

It is best given on an empty stomach.

Treatment is usually 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 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.

With the mixture it is normal for sediment to form during storage. **YOU MUST SHAKE THE MIXTURE VERY WELL (SO THAT THERE IS NO SEDIMENT) BEFORE DRAWING UP THE DOSE.**

## WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medicine 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 sotalol locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets 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.

The mixture needs to be kept in the refrigerator on a high shelf with the lid tightly closed.

## USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

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

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Talk to your child's doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

### 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 sotalol is being given.
- Your child may experience dizziness or drowsiness while taking sotalol. 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 sotalol in babies and infants.
- Do not stop giving sotalol suddenly. The dose of sotalol should be gradually reduced under supervision by your child's doctor. 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 a RCH doctor. *These may take some time to prepare, so **please notify the RCH pharmacy 2-3 working days in advance.***

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking sotalol. 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 child's doctor.

#### **Less serious side effects include:**

- headache, nausea, diarrhoea
- dizziness, tiredness or weakness
- cold hands or feet, tingling or numbness
- problems with sleeping or unusual dreams
- flatulence or heartburn
- 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**



***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 child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to 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 – OCTOBER 2010.

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