Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

# PROPAFENONE

*pro-pa-fen-own*

## What does it do?

*Propafenone* is used to treat and prevent irregular heartbeats.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have lung problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *propafenone* regularly as directed. Swallow the tablets whole with food and a glass of water.

## What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

## Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

## What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---|
| Symptoms of heart problems including: fluttering, pounding or pain in your chest, feeling your heart skips a beat, dizziness or fainting<br>Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections in your body - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Swollen feet or legs, short of breath<br>Blurred vision | Tell your doctor |
| Dizziness, tiredness or weakness<br>Dry mouth, changes in taste<br>Stomach upset, constipation | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

## Other information:

- *Propafenone* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)
- Do not stop taking *propafenone* without talking to your doctor first.