MEXILETINE

mex-il-ih-teen

What does it do?

Mexiletine is used to treat irregular heartbeats.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have ever had a seizure.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *mexiletine* regularly as directed with 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 Seizures	Tell your doctor immediately
Swollen feet or legs, short of breath Loss of co-ordination/walking or handwriting problems, tremor Changes in vision	Tell your doctor
Dizziness	Tell your doctor if troublesome
Nausea, vomiting, heartburn	Take with food and tell your doctor if symptoms continue

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

Other information:

- *Mexiletine* 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?)
- Smoking can change the effect of *mexiletine*. Tell your doctor if you give up, cut down or start smoking.
- *Mexiletine* is not registered for use in New Zealand. Discuss with your doctor.