



What's my Drug?

Amiodarone is mainly used to treat conditions where the heart beats too fast or is not in the proper rhythm. A specialist doctor from the hospital should start you on this.

How to take it: Take it with a drink.

Possible side effects include: Sickness and constipation. You could get a funny taste in your mouth. It can cause the pulse to slow down, which could make you dizzy or breathless. An irregular pulse can happen too but is less common. It can affect the thyroid gland, sometimes seriously. Your doctor will take blood tests every 6 months, but if you become very hot and active or very cold and slow tell your doctor. Your skin could get more sensitive to sunlight, even on cloudy days. Your skin could darken with a grey tinge. It can cause eczema and other skin problems, sometimes severely.

Less common but important side effects: Some people develop a problem in the lungs so if you become short of breath, tell your doctor. It can cause liver problems which could cause a yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), stomach pain, or dark urine. Your doctor should also take blood tests every 6 months to check your liver. You could get tiny deposits in the eye which could cause you to see a halo-like effect around things. Serious eye problems with damage to vision are rare. It can cause allergic reactions.

Warnings and Cautions: Protect your skin from sunlight, even on a bright cloudy day. Cover up and/or use a high-factor sunscreen as this tablet can cause sunburn. And, do not use sunbeds while on treatment. Do not eat or drink grapefruit while on this medication. This medication does not mix well with some other medicines, especially some anti-viral medicines. Check with your health professionals if necessary. Amiodarone might cause you to be dazzled by headlights when driving, so take care. If you feel unwell or dizzy you should not drive or operate machinery. This medicine stays in your body and keeps working for a long time, even after stopping it so report possible side effects to your doctor straight away. To find out more about this medicine's numerous other possible side effects, read the full Product Information Leaflet. For women: this medication is not used during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Pregnancy should be avoided for one month after treatment finishes.

Note: you will be given an alert card to carry with you at all times while on this medicine.