

Sotalol (Betapace[®], Betapace[®] AF)

Sotalol (SO – tah - lol) is the generic name for the medicines Betapace[®] and Betapace[®] AF. This medicine treats a child whose heart beats faster than it should (tachycardia). Sotalol works by controlling the nerves that make the heart beat. This slows down the heartbeat.

Your child will be admitted to the hospital for about 3 days when his or her doctor starts giving sotalol, and sometimes when there will be an increase in the dose. This is to make sure the medicine is slowing your child's heart rate, and to watch your child for side effects of the medicine.

If your child is allergic to sotalol or any other beta-blockers (such as atenolol, metoprolol or propranolol), he or she **should not** take this medicine. Talk to the doctor if your child has asthma. This medicine may make the asthma worse. This medicine may change your child's blood sugar. Tell the doctor if your child has diabetes.

Doctor's Orders

Date _____

Child's Name _____

Age _____ Weight _____ Body Surface Area _____

☐ **Tablet:** Give a dose (amount) _____ of this medicine _____ times a day at these times: _____

- Ask your pharmacist, nurse or doctor before cutting or crushing any medicine.

☐ **Liquid:** A dose (_____ mL) of this medicine is equal to (amount) _____. Give a dose of this medicine _____ times a day at these times: _____

- Shake this medicine before measuring the dose.
- Use a pediatric measuring device (available at the pharmacy) or a measuring spoon to measure the exact dose. Do not measure liquid medicines in kitchen spoons.

Taking this Medicine

- Read the label carefully and make sure you are giving your child the proper amount.
- Give the **exact dose** of medicine that your doctor ordered.
- Stay with your child until he or she has swallowed the dose of medicine.
- If your child has trouble taking medicine, ask the nurse for the Helping Hand HH-IV-28, *Medications: How to Give by Mouth*.
- This medicine should be given 1 hour **before** or 2 hours **after** eating. If your child gets an upset stomach from the medicine, then you may give it with food.
- It is very important to give the medicine **every day** as ordered, even if your child is feeling fine.

Foods and Other Drugs with this Medicine

- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicine, including non-prescription medicines (such as antacids or cold medicines).
- Your child should not drink large amounts of soft drinks, chocolate drinks, tea or coffee while taking this medicine. If your child takes an antacid, he or she should take it 2 hours **before** or 2 hours **after** taking sotalol.
- If your child is taking any other medicine, tell your doctor and pharmacist. Certain medicines, vitamins, nutritional and herbal products may change the effects of sotalol and may require changes to the use of this medicine.
- There are other brands of this medicine, but do **not** switch from one brand to another without the doctor's approval. These products are not all the same.
- Some pharmacies may not have this medicine. Please ask your nurse to call your pharmacy before you leave the hospital to see if they have this medicine or can order it for you. You may also have the prescription filled at the Nationwide Children's Hospital Pharmacy.

If You Forget to Give a Dose

If you forget to give a dose of this medicine, give it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose, do not give the missed dose at all. Do not double the next dose. Instead, go back to your regular dosing schedule. If you have any questions about this, check with your child's doctor or pharmacist.

If a Dose Is Vomited

Even if the medicine is vomited (thrown up) right after it is given, some of the medicine may still be in the stomach. Do not repeat the dose unless it is in tablet form and you can see that the whole tablet was vomited.

Possible Side Effects

- Slow, fast, or irregular heart beat
- Tiredness or weakness
- Wheezing or trouble breathing
- Raised or lowered blood sugar levels in children with diabetes
- Swelling of the legs or feet
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Fainting or dizziness
- Upset stomach or diarrhea

When to Call the Doctor

Call your child's doctor if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Slow, fast, or irregular heart beat
- Any side effects that are very bothersome.
- Trouble breathing
- An unusual or allergic reaction to any medicine.

Storing this Medicine

- **Store all medicine out of the reach of children.**
- Always keep medicine in the original container from the pharmacy.
- If you carry medicine in your purse, keep it in its childproof container and keep your purse out of the reach of children.
- Have your pharmacist give you 2 labeled containers if your child care provider or school nurse will be giving this medicine.
- Bring all your child's medicines with you **in the original containers** whenever your child sees a doctor, goes to an emergency room, or is admitted to the hospital. This helps doctors who may not know your child.

Testing the Heart's Rhythm

An electrocardiogram (EKG) will be done once in a while to check your child's heart rate and rhythm. For more information about this test, please read Helping Hand HH-III-6, *EKG (Electrocardiogram)*.

Safety Tips

- Learn the name, spelling and dose of this medicine. Also, teach your child if he or she is old enough. You will need to know this information when you call your doctor or pharmacist.
- **If your child takes too much of this medicine, or if someone else takes this medicine, first call the Central Ohio Poison Center at 1-800-682-7625 (TTY 614-228-2272).** They will tell you what to do.
- Do not stop giving this medicine or change the amount given without first talking with your child's doctor.
- The doctor has prescribed this medicine for your child **only**. Do not give it to anyone else.
- Your child should not drink alcohol.
- If a patient thinks she might be pregnant, she should tell the doctor **before** she begins taking this or any medicine.
- If the patient is breast-feeding a baby, she should tell her doctor before taking sotalol or any medicine.
- Tell your child's teacher, school nurse, coach, babysitter, grandparents, and other caregivers that your child is taking this medicine, and to watch for the side effects.
- The child's school will need a note from you and from the doctor if the medicine is to be given at school by the school nurse.
- When the medicine is no longer needed, mix the leftover medicine in water or rubbing alcohol until it is dissolved (becomes part of the liquid). Mix the dissolved medicine with an unwanted material (like coffee grounds) and put the mixture back into the pill container, or into another container that will not leak. Throw the container away in the trash where children and pets cannot reach it.

Follow-Up Appointments

- Your child's follow-up appointment is on (date) _____ at (time) _____.
- Write down all your questions as you think of them. Bring this list with you when you see the doctor.
- Call your child's doctor's office if you cannot keep the appointment.

If you have any questions about this medicine, be sure to ask your child's doctor, nurse or pharmacist.