
Dilasig

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Dilasig. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Dilasig against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again

What Dilasig is used for

Dilasig contains the active ingredient, carvedilol.

Carvedilol is used to treat heart failure and high blood pressure.

Carvedilol belongs to a group of medicines called beta-blockers. These medicines work by relaxing tightened blood vessels and slowing the heart rate. Dilasig has the additional effect of being an antioxidant.

Heart failure occurs when the heart can no longer pump blood strongly enough for the body's needs. Often the heart grows in size to try to improve the blood flow but this can make the heart failure worse.

Symptoms of heart failure include shortness of breath and swelling of the feet or legs due to fluid build-up.

Dilasig reduces the pressure that the heart has to pump against as well as controlling your heart rate. Over 6 months or more, this will reduce the size of an oversized heart and increase its efficiency.

Dilasig reduces the chances of you being admitted to hospital for this condition.

Dilasig is often used with other medicines to treat heart failure.

Your doctor, however, may have prescribed Dilasig for another purpose.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Dilasig has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Dilasig is not addictive.

Before you take Dilasig

When you must not take it

Do not take Dilasig if:

- 1. you have had an allergic reaction to Dilasig or any ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include an itchy skin rash, shortness of breath or swelling of the face or tongue.

- 2. you have asthma or other conditions which make you short of breath from time to time.**

- 3. you have allergic disorders, including allergies which cause asthma or nose running/congestion.**
- 4. you are intolerant or allergic to lactose. Dilasig contains lactose.**
- 5. you have a history of a very slow heart rate or uneven heart beating.**
- 6. you have certain other heart conditions.**
- 7. you have liver problems.**
- 8. you have very low blood pressure.**
- 9. the package is torn or shows signs of tampering.**
- 10. the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed or if the tablets appear damaged in some way.**

If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

If you are not sure if you should be taking Dilasig, talk to your doctor.

Do not give Dilasig to people under 18 years of age.

Safety and effectiveness in children have not been established.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if:

- 1. you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.**

It is not known whether Dilasig is

harmful to an unborn baby when taken by a pregnant woman. If there is a need to take Dilasig when you are pregnant your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits to you and the unborn baby.

2. you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.

Dilasig passes into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking Dilasig if you are breast-feeding.

3. you have any other health problems, especially the following:

- angina or chest pain/tightness which occurs even when you are at rest (also called unstable angina)
- low blood pressure
- high blood pressure which varies widely
- very poor circulation to your fingers and/or toes (also called peripheral vascular disease)
- a history of poor kidney function
- chronic bronchitis or emphysema causing breathing difficulties
- diabetes
- sudden low blood sugar levels (also called hypoglycaemia)
- thyroid disorders
- severe allergic reactions causing swelling and/or difficulty breathing
- a rare cancer called pheochromocytoma
- skin disease such as psoriasis (hardened patches of red skin).

4. you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

5. you are intolerant or allergic to lactose.

6. you plan to have surgery.

Your surgeon and anaesthetist should know well ahead of the date of your surgery so they can allow for your condition and medications.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking Dilasig.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you have bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with Dilasig.

These medicines include:

- rifampicin, a medicine used to treat tuberculosis (e.g. Rimycin®, Rifadin®)
- cimetidine, a medicine used to treat stomach ulcers or reflux (e.g. Tagamet®, Cimehexal®, Magicul®, Sigmatadine®)
- digoxin, a medicine used to treat heart failure (e.g. Lanoxin®)
- monoamine-oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) such as phenelzine (Nardil®) and tranylcypromine (Parnate®), medicines used to treat depression
- clonidine, a medicine used to treat high blood pressure, migraine or menopausal symptoms (e.g. Catapres®)
- diltiazem, a medicine used to treat high blood pressure or angina (e.g. Cardizem®, Cardcal®, Coras®, Diltahexal®, Diltiamax®, Dilzem®, Vasocardol®)
- verapamil, a medicine used to treat high blood pressure, angina or fast heart rate (e.g. Isoptin®, Cordilox®, Anpec®, Verahexal®)
- drugs for when your heart doesn't beat smoothly, including disopyramide

(Rythmodan® , Norpace®), quinidine (Kinidin®), procainamide (Pronestyl®), mexiletine (Mexitil®), lignocaine, flecainide (Tambacor®) and amiodarone (Cordarone®), Aratac®)

- drugs for diabetes, including insulin injections, glibenclamide (Daonil®), Glimel®, metformin (Diabex®, Diaformin® , Glucohexal®, Glucomet®, Glucophage®, NovoMet®), chlorpropamide (Diabinese®), gliclazide (Diamicon®), glipizide (Minidiab®, Melizide®) and tolbutamide (Rastinon®)
- cyclosporin, a medicine used to treat certain problems with the immune system.

These medicines may be affected by Dilasig, or may affect how well it works. You may need to use different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Dilasig.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about this list of medicines.

How to take Dilasig

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to take

Take Dilasig exactly as your doctor has prescribed.

Your doctor will tell you how many Dilasig to take each day.

Heart Failure

The usual starting dose in heart failure is 3.125 mg twice daily. The

dose is usually increased every two weeks to 6.25 mg twice daily, 12.5 mg twice daily and then 25 mg twice daily. However, this may be done more slowly if side effects occur. If the tablets slow your heart too much you may go back to a lower dose.

High Blood Pressure

The usual starting dose in high blood pressure is once daily.

Adults :

The recommended dose for initiation of therapy is 12.5 mg a day for the first two days.

Thereafter, the recommended dosage is 25 mg once a day. If necessary, the dosage may subsequently be increased at intervals of at least two weeks up to the recommended maximum daily dose of 50 mg given once a day or in divided doses (twice daily).

Elderly :

The recommended dose for initiation of therapy is 12.5 mg once daily, which has provided satisfactory control in some patients. If the response is inadequate, the dose may be titrated at intervals of at least two weeks up to the recommended maximum daily dose

Your doctor will monitor you carefully each time the dose is increased.

How to take it

Swallow tablets whole or halved with a glass of water.

Do not crush or chew the tablets.

When to take it

Take Dilasig during or immediately after a meal, at about the same times each day.

If you take Dilasig on an empty stomach, it may increase the risk of some of the side effects.

How long to take it

Your doctor will probably ask you to take Dilasig long-term to control your heart failure or your high blood pressure.

Continue taking Dilasig until your doctor tells you to stop.

It is very important that Dilasig is not ceased suddenly. If you are to stop taking Dilasig, your doctor will advise you to reduce the dose slowly over approximately two weeks.

If you forget to take it

Do not take an extra dose. Wait until the next dose and take your normal dose then.

Do not try to make up for the dose that you missed by taking more than one dose at a time.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering your dose, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

In case of an overdose

Immediately telephone your doctor, or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26), or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Dilasig. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

The following are some symptoms, which may or may not occur:

- low blood pressure, causing dizziness or fainting
- a very slow heart rate
- difficulty breathing
- vomiting
- shock
- seizures.

Keep telephone numbers for

these places handy.

If you are not sure what to do, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

While you are taking Dilasig

Things you must do

If you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint when getting out of bed or standing up, get up slowly.

Make sure you drink enough water during exercise and hot weather when you are taking Dilasig, especially if you sweat a lot.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Dilasig. You should also tell your surgeon and anaesthetist if you are having surgery.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking Dilasig.

Tell your doctor that you are taking Dilasig if you are going to have any laboratory tests.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Tell your doctor if you feel the tablets are not helping your condition.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may examine your eyes, and test your blood glucose and kidney function from time to time.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking Dilasig or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not let yourself run out of medicine over the weekend or on holidays.

Dilasig should only be stopped by gradually reducing the amount over a two-week period.

Do not give Dilasig to anyone else even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use Dilasig to treat other complaints unless your doctor says to.

Do not take any other medicines whether they require a prescription or not without first telling your doctor or consulting a pharmacist.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until Dilasig affects you.

Dilasig may affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery when started or when the dosage is increased.

If you wear contact lenses you may also notice a reduction in the amount of tear fluid in your eyes.

When taken with grapefruit juice, the amount of Dilasig absorbed by your body may be increased.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Dilasig.

Dilasig helps most people with heart failure but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

All medicine can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacists to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- tiredness, drowsiness
- dizziness
- light-headedness
- abnormal or blurry vision
- slow heart rate
- diarrhoea
- nausea and vomiting
- bronchitis
- high blood sugar
- weight increase
- fluid retention

These are the more common side effects of Dilasig. Mostly these are mild and will decrease as you get used to your medicine.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- itching, dark urine, loss of appetite, yellowing of skin or eyes, or feeling "flu-like" with no clear cause
- shortness of breath or swelling of the mouth or tongue
- uneven heart beating
- swelling of the feet or legs due to fluid build up
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal.

These may be serious side effects.

You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand anything in this list.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

After taking Dilasig

Storage

Keep your tablets in the blister until it is time to take them.

If you take the tablets out of the blister pack they may not keep well.

Keep Dilasig in a cool dry place, where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking the tablets or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.

Where to go for further information

Pharmaceutical companies are not in a position to give people an individual diagnosis or medical advice. Your doctor or pharmacist is the best person to give you advice on the treatment of your condition.

Product description

What it looks like

Dilasig are available in 4 different strengths:

3.125 mg tablets:

White oval shaped, film-coated tablets, imprinted with « P » logo on one side and plain on the other side – 30's.

Blister : AUST R 141459

6.25 mg tablets:

White oval shaped, film-coated tablets, imprinted « 6.25 » on one side and « P » logo on the other side – 30's and 60's.

Blister : AUST R 141460

12.5 mg tablets:

White oval shaped, film-coated tablets, imprinted « 12.5 » on one side and « P » logo on the other side – 60's.

Blister : AUST R 141461

25 mg tablets:

White oval shaped, film-coated tablets, imprinted « 25 » on one side and « P » logo on the other side – 60's.

Blister : AUST R 141462

Ingredients

Each Dilasig intended for oral administration contains 3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg or 25 mg of carvedilol.

In addition, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients:

- cellulose microcrystalline
- lactose
- crospovidone
- povidone
- silica-colloidal anhydrous
- magnesium stearate
- opadry II complete film coating system YS-22-18096 white.

Storage

Store below 25°C. Protect from light and moisture.

Store in original package. Tablets should be kept in the blister until immediately before use.

Sponsor

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