Nightingale Home Healthcare

Affiliate Companies:
Aspire Home Healthcare
Nightingale & Nightingale Visiting Nurses
Nightingale Hospice

CARVEDILOL

Brand names: Coreg®, Coreg CR®

What is this medication used for?

Carvedilol is in a class of drugs called beta-blockers. Beta-blockers are used to lower blood pressure, treat angina (chest pain) and heart failure, and reduce the risk for heart attacks.

How should I take this medication?

Carvedilol is available as an immediate-acting oral tablet and a long-acting oral capsule. Dosing will vary based on dosage form and diagnosis for each patient.

Both oral forms should be taken with food at the same time each day.

The oral tablet may be crushed or the oral capsule may be opened and the contents sprinkled on food to aid in swallowing.

Take carvedilol exactly as directed by your physician, at the same time each day.

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

Do not take any new medication (prescription or over-the-counter) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

What are the side effects of this medication?

- dizziness, drowsiness
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- dry eyes
- feeling weak or tired
- joint pain
- cough
- decreased sex drive, impotence

Other side effects not listed may also occur. Check with your physician if you notice any other effects.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- feeling like you might pass out
- slow or uneven heartbeats
- bronchospasm (wheezing, chest tightness, trouble breathing)
- feeling short of breath, even with mild exertion
- swelling or rapid weight gain
- numbness or cold feeling in your hands and feet
- high blood sugar (increased thirst, increased urination, hunger, dry mouth, fruity breath odor, drowsiness, dry skin, blurred vision, weight loss).
- Symptoms of an allergic reaction such as: hives, itching, swelling of the face, wheezing, difficulty breathing or swallowing.

Special Instructions:

Carvedilol may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

Avoid drinking alcohol. Also avoid taking medicines or other products that might contain alcohol. Check the labels of any prescription or over-the-counter medicines you take to see if they contain alcohol (also called ethanol).

Carvedilol may cause light-headedness and dizziness, especially upon sitting up or standing. Get up slowly! Make sure that you monitor your blood pressure while taking carvedilol and talk to your doctor if these effects occur.

If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using carvedilol even if you feel well.

Treatment for your high blood pressure or heart failure may include weight control and changes in the types of foods you eat, especially foods high in sodium. You should check with your doctor before changing your diet.

Carvedilol can affect your pupils during cataract surgery. Tell your eye surgeon ahead of time that you are using this medication.

Carvedilol may affect blood sugar levels. It may cover up symptoms of low blood sugar, such as rapid pulse. If you notice a change in the results of your blood or urine sugar tests, or if you have any questions, check with your doctor .

This information is only a summary. Please contact your healthcare professional for additional information about this medication.