

ALPHA-1 BLOCKERS

doxazosin, prazosin, terazosin

Other names: Apo-Doxazosin®, Apo-Prazo®, Apo-Terazosin®, Hytrin®,
Terazosin-Arrow®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine?

Alpha-1 blockers are a group of medicines that affect the tone of blood vessels (cause the blood vessels to relax and open up).

Alpha-1 blockers can be used for the following conditions:

- to lower blood pressure (for hypertension)
- to allow better urine flow with an enlarged prostate (for BPH)

When to take this medicine

The first dose of this medicine can suddenly reduce your blood pressure and it is best to take this dose at bedtime.

Alpha-1 blockers can be taken with or without food. If you get an upset stomach then take the medicine with food.

Do not stop taking this medicine without consulting your doctor first.

If you miss a dose

Take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- fast or irregular heartbeat
- chest pain
- skin rash, severe itching or hives
- shortness of breath
- loss of bladder control
- swelling of the legs and feet

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- dizziness or light-headedness
- drowsiness or tiredness
- mood changes
- muscle weakness
- headache
- blurred vision
- decreased sexual activity
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets such as nausea
- nasal congestion

Take care when standing up to avoid feeling dizziness or faint. Stand up slowly when rising from sitting or lying down.

This medicine may make you dizzy and make it dangerous to drive or operate machinery, especially when you first start taking this medicine. If dizzy or drowsy avoid driving or operating any machinery or doing any hazardous tasks. Take care until the effects of the medicine are known.

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.