

# Amiodarone (Pacerone<sup>®</sup>, Cordarone<sup>®</sup>)

## General Information

Amiodarone is a medicine used to treat ventricular (life-threatening) and atrial (non-life-threatening) arrhythmias. (Arrhythmias are irregular heartbeats.)

## How Is It Given?

Amiodarone is given either:

- by mouth (tablet)
- by intravenous (IV) line in your hand or arm (clear liquid).

## What Side Effects May Occur?

This is a partial list of the side effects you may have with this medicine. You may have some, all or none of those listed, or you may have other side effects not listed. Most side effects last only a short time.

### When to call 911:

Amiodarone may cause damage to your lungs, make your irregular heartbeat worse, or cause a different irregular heartbeat.

**If you have any of the symptoms listed below, call 911 right away. Do not delay. Do not drive yourself to a hospital Emergency Department or urgent care.**

- wheezing, shortness of breath
- fast, slow or pounding heartbeats
- dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting

- signs of allergic reaction:

- rash
- itching
- hives
- swelling
- problems breathing

### When to call your doctor:

Call your doctor if you have any of the symptoms listed below.

- jaundice (yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes)
- vision problems (blurred vision, sensitivity to light, or seeing halos)
- nausea, vomiting or stomach pain
- fever
- cough
- sensitivity to sunlight
- blue-gray skin tone
- muscle weakness and/or inability to coordinate muscle movements
- reduced feelings (sensations) in your arms, hands, legs and feet

## Special Notes

- Amiodarone can interact (interfere) with other medicines. This means some medicines may become weaker or stronger than they should. Be sure to tell all health care providers (including dentists) that you are taking amiodarone.
- Your doctor will do regular tests to check how well the amiodarone is working and ask you about any side effects you have. Be sure to keep all health care appointments.
- Amiodarone can affect how well your thyroid works. Your doctor will check your thyroid levels through regular blood tests.
- Amiodarone will make your skin extra sensitive to light. Be sure to wear a high SPF sunscreen and protective clothing while you are outside. Avoid the sun.
- If you are pregnant, you should not take amiodarone. If you think you are or know you are pregnant, tell your doctor.
- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while you are taking amiodarone.

## When To Call 911 or Your Doctor

See “What Side Effects May Occur” for symptoms about which you need to know.

For more complete medicine information or for questions about this medicine, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.