

How To Take Dofetilide (Tikosyn®)

Dofetilide (Tikosyn®)

Dofetilide is a medicine that suppresses atrial fibrillation and helps your heart maintain a normal rhythm.

To start taking this medicine, you need to have a hospital stay.

How to Take Dofetilide

- Take dofetilide 2 times each day 10 to 12 hours between doses. (For example, take the first dose at 8 a.m. and the second dose at 8 p.m.)
- If you miss one dose, take the next dose at the usual time.
 - **Do not** double up or take 2 doses at the same time.

Side Effects of Dofetilide

Possible side effects include:

- a longer QT interval (the time it takes for your heart to relax after beating). This can lead to a dangerous arrhythmia called Torsades de Pointes. This risk is highest during the first few days of treatment.
- headache
- chest pain
- feeling dizzy.

Tell your nurse right away if you have any symptoms that are new or worse.

Medicines You Should Not Take While on Dofetilide

You should not take the medicines listed below while on dofetilide.

Call 1-855-644-4787 if you are prescribed any of these medicines or if you are not sure how any new medicine will interact with the dofetilide.

- Do not take dofetilide if you have long QT syndrome or severe kidney disease.
- Do not take any medicine that can lengthen the QT interval which includes medicines:
 - to treat a **bacterial infection**:
 - trimethoprim (alone or with sulfamethoxazole which includes Bactrim®, Bactrim DS®, Septra®), macrolides (azithromycin, clarithromycin, erythromycin) and fluoroquinolones (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin)
 - to **prevent throwing up**:
 - prochlorperazine (Phenergan®), phenothiazine (Compazine®), ondansetron (Zofran®)
 - to treat a **fungal infection**:
 - fluconazole (Diflucan®), ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
 - to treat **high blood pressure**:
 - verapamil (Calan®), hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ®)

(over)

- to treat **heartburn and stomach pain**:
 - cimetidine (Tagamet[®])
- to treat **bipolar disorder, depression and certain mental health disorders**:
 - quetiapine fumarate (Seroquel[®]), olanzapine (Zyprexa[®]), citalopram (Celexa[®])
- Other medicines not to take are:
 - dolutegravir (Tivicay[®])
 - megestrol (Megace[®]).
- Your electrophysiologist will talk with you if you take glucophage (Metformin[®]) for diabetes.
- Go to crediblemeds.org for more information about medicines that affect the QT interval.

What to Do if You Have a New Medicine to Take

- Ask your primary care provider or pharmacist if a new prescription medicine or over-the-counter medicine, vitamin, herbal or natural medicine is safe to take.
- **Do not** take medicines that lengthen the QT interval. (See the above list.)

- Ask your pharmacist or call Allina Health Minneapolis Heart Institute — Minneapolis at 1-855-644-4787 if you are prescribed a new medicine and do not know if it will interact or interfere with dofetilide.

When to Get Refills

- Request refills 1 to 2 weeks before you need them.
- Call your pharmacy to request a refill.
- Have your prescription refilled at the same pharmacy each time.

When to Call Allina Health Minneapolis Heart Institute — Minneapolis

Call 1-855-644-4787 right away if you have the following signs of an electrolyte imbalance:

- severe diarrhea (loose, runny stools)
- vomiting (throwing up)
- loss of appetite or not eating
- increased thirst (drinking more than normal)
- unusual sweating.