



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Nicorandil

Pharmacy and Cardiology Directorates

You have been given a medicine called Nicorandil.

Why has my doctor given me nicorandil and what are the benefits?

Nicorandil is used to prevent and treat angina.

Check with your doctor if you are still not sure why you have been prescribed nicorandil.

How does it work?

Nicorandil relaxes the muscles in the walls of your veins and arteries. This reduces the workload on your heart and improves the supply of oxygen to your heart muscle.

How should I take my nicorandil?

Always follow the instructions on the label. Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to. You should usually take the tablets twice a day, usually in the morning and again at night.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, do not take the one you missed. Take the next dose at the usual time. Do not double the next dose.

What are the risks of having nicorandil?

There are risks and benefits of taking all medicines however your doctor will discuss with you why there are more benefits than risks for you having nicorandil. There are some side effects to all medicines.

What are the side effects of nicorandil?

All medicines have side effects. Not everybody will experience side effects.

Some people may experience:

- Headaches (however, these usually stop after a few days when your body adjusts to the tablets)
- Flushing
- Feeling sick
- Dizziness
- Mouth Ulcers
- Ulcers in other parts of the gastro-intestinal tract

When you start to take nicorandil you should not drive or operate machinery until you know that your ability is not affected by the tablets. If side effects continue after a few days please see your General Practitioner (GP).

Can I take other medicines while taking nicorandil?

Some other medicines may affect how nicorandil works. It is important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist before you take any other medicines, including ones that you buy.

Some medicines used for erectile dysfunction must not be used if you are on nicorandil because they can cause a rapid fall in your blood pressure.

The most common ones are sildenafil (viagra), tadalafil (cialis) and vardenafil (levitra), however please check with your doctor.

Are there any alternative treatments available?

There are various different medicines available to treat angina however if your doctor has prescribed nicorandil for you, it may be the most appropriate medicine to try to reduce the frequency of your angina. If you have any side effects please discuss this with your doctor as they may be able to prescribe an alternative.

What will happen if I decide not to have nicorandil?

If you decide not to have nicorandil you will not get any of the benefits. You must discuss this with your doctor as they need to know if you are not taking it and may prescribe an alternative for you.

Warning: There is a moisture-drying agent in the foil strip. This is not a tablet. Do not swallow the drying agent.

This leaflet is not a substitute for any advice that your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may give you.

You can get more detailed information from the manufacturer's information leaflet.

Further Information

**Further information on this medicine is available from the Medicines Information Department of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital
Telephone number: 0151 706 2096
Text phone number 18001 0151 2096**

**NHS website
www.nhs.uk**

NHS Direct:

For free advice and information on any health matter 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, please Tel: 0845 4647

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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