

BETA ADRENERGIC BLOCKING AGENTS (acebutolol, atenolol, labetalol, metoprolol, propranolol)

WHAT IT DOES:

- 1) Controls:
 - a. hypertension (high blood pressure)
 - b. angina (chest pain)
 - c. arrhythmias (irregular heart beat)
 - d. prevents further heart attacks.

HOW IT WORKS:

Affects the response to some nerve impulses in certain parts of the body. This causes reduced blood pressure and a slowed heart rate.

HOW TO TAKE IT:

Do not stop taking this medication without your doctor's advice.
Labetolol and propranolol should be taken with food.
LA preparations should be swallowed whole.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS A DOSE:

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:

Low blood pressure or slow heart rate (under 50 beats per minute)
Dizziness, light-headedness, mental depression, nightmares/dreams
Unusual tiredness or weakness
Breathing difficulty and/or wheezing
Cold hands and feet, swelling in the ankles, feet or lower legs
Nausea, vomiting or abdominal discomfort
Decreased sexual ability

PRECAUTIONS:

If you are a **diabetic**, this medication may cover up some of the signs of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) such as increased heart rate, but does not mask other signs such as dizziness or sweating.

WHY I AM TAKING THIS MEDICINE:
