



Instructions for Use of Cardura® (Doxazosin) for BPH

What is BPH?

Benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) is an enlargement of the prostate gland. BPH can cause irritative and obstructive urinary symptoms such as difficulty starting stream, weak stream, incomplete bladder emptying, and frequent and urgent urination.

What is Cardura?

Cardura® is a type of medication called an alpha-blocker. It is used to treat some of the BPH symptoms. Cardura reduces the symptoms of BPH by relaxing the muscles of the bladder neck and prostate. Cardura is also frequently used to treat high blood pressure.

How do I take Cardura?

Before you take Cardura, be sure to tell your doctor if you are on any blood pressure or cardiac medications. You will receive Cardura as a 2mg tablet. It is usually taken in increasing doses as prescribed by your doctor. Please read the instructions below on how to take Cardura. Start the dose of Cardura at Dose Level 1. If there is no improvement in your urinary symptoms after 7 days, you should increase medication to the next dose level. If urinary symptoms are acceptable to you, then continue taking the medication at that dose until your next appointment.

Dose Level 1: Take one-half tablet (1 mg) at bedtime for 7 days. If no improvement after 7 days, go to Dose Level 2.

Dose Level 2: Take one tablet (2mg) at bedtime for 7 days. If no

improvement after 7 days, go to Dose Level 3.

Dose Level 3: Take two tablets (4 mg) at bedtime for 7 days. If no improvement after 7 days, go to Dose Level 4.

Dose Level 4: Take three tablets (6 mg) at bedtime for 7 days. If no improvement after 7 days, go to Dose Level 5.

Dose Level 5: Take four tablets (8 mg) at bedtime for 30 days.

What are the side effects of Cardura?

The most common side-effect is feeling lightheaded or dizzy. If you experience these symptoms, go back to the previous dose level and take the medication at that dose level until your next appointment. If these symptoms continue even after going back to the previous dose, call your doctor. Other side effects could include headache, tiredness, shortness of breath, abnormal vision, irregular heartbeat, and rash or hives. This is not a complete list of the side effects. However, if you experience any of these symptoms, stop taking the medication and call your doctor. If you experience a side effect that affects your ability to function normally, stop the medication and call your doctor.

What are some precautions I should use while taking Cardura?

- Get up slowly when moving from a sitting or lying down position, especially after increasing to a higher dose level.
- Be careful when exercising and standing for long periods of time. If you begin to feel dizzy or faint, sit or lie down.
- Do not drive or do dangerous work if this medicine makes you dizzy or sleepy.

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- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is close to the next dose, do not take the missed dose. Do not take a double dose.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about this medication, please contact the University of Michigan, Department of Urology at 734-936-7030 during business hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm). After business hours and on weekends, please call 734-936-6267 and ask to speak with the Urology Resident on call. If you need to see a doctor right away, please go to the nearest Emergency Room (ER). Have the ER doctor contact the University of Michigan urology resident on call for assistance.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.

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