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If you have high blood pressure, angina or have had a heart attack, you may be prescribed Lopressor. You may also be familiar with its generic name, metoprolol. Lopressor is a high alert medication, which means if you do not take it exactly as prescribed, it may cause illness or injury.

The heart is a muscle that pumps oxygen and nutrient-rich blood through your body. When you have certain heart problems, your body makes hormones that can cause your heart to pump too hard and too fast, leading to serious health problems.

Lopressor blocks these hormones, allowing your heart to relax and do its job with less strain. Lopressor comes in a tablet. Your healthcare provider will decide how much you need to take.

Lopressor is a powerful medication. Some people should not take it. Do not take it if you are allergic to any ingredient in Lopressor.

If you have a very slow heart rate, severe heart failure, or certain types of irregular heartbeat, tell your healthcare provider. If you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant or are breastfeeding, talk to your healthcare provider before taking Lopressor.

Before taking Lopressor, tell your healthcare provider if you have a history of asthma; COPD; sleep apnea or other breathing problems; diabetes, liver, kidney or thyroid problems; and problems with circulation. Before taking Lopressor, give your healthcare provider a complete list of all other medications you use, including vitamins and herbal supplements.

Some side effects of Lopressor include diarrhea; nausea; headache; dizziness; tiredness or fatigue; unusually cold hands or feet; and mood changes, like depression or hallucinations. If you notice any of these side effects, tell your healthcare provider.

Be aware that you are at an increased risk of falling while taking Lopressor. Get up from a sitting or lying position slowly. Do not drive or operate heavy machinery, including your car, until you know how Lopressor affects you.

If you have a severe allergic reaction, trouble breathing, shortness of breath, fast heartbeat, chest pain call 911 and get help immediately. This is not the complete list of side effects. Make sure you discuss all possible side effects with your healthcare provider.

Take Lopressor exactly as prescribed. Do not change your dose.

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Lopressor should be taken with, or immediately following, a meal. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip your missed dose and return to your normal medication schedule.

Do not double dose. If you think you have taken too much Lopressor, call your healthcare provider.

Talk to your healthcare provider before you stop taking this medication. If you suddenly stop taking it, you can increase your risk of heart attack, chest pain and other serious complications. If your healthcare provider decides you should stop taking it, you will gradually reduce its use and temporarily limit physical activity to protect your heart.

Store Lopressor away from moisture and direct sunlight. Your bathroom medicine cabinet is not the best place because of moisture. Do not leave your medication where it can get too hot or too cold. Always store your medication, out of sight and out of reach of children to prevent accidents.

Lopressor can help your heart work more easily, but it's a powerful medication that should only be taken exactly as prescribed. If you have any questions about Lopressor, ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist for more information.