

Ivabradine in Heart Failure

You are taking, or will soon be taking, the medicine ivabradine (say *eye-vab-ra-deen*) to help manage your heart failure. Its brand name is Lancora®.

How does this medicine work?

This medicine slows your heart rate by a few beats each minute so your heart can pump more blood through your body each time it beats. It does this by blocking the electrical current made by your heart's natural pacemaker. The slower heart rate does not affect the pumping of your heart and does not lower your blood pressure.

How does this medicine help heart failure?

When used with other heart failure medicines, ivabradine keeps your heart failure from getting worse and reduces the chances of hospital stays.

What are some side effects to watch for?

You might notice some vision problems when you first start taking this medicine, like blurred vision, seeing flashes of light, or halos around objects. It usually goes away within a month.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of these side effects:

- lightheaded or dizzy
- slow, fast, or irregular heartbeat
- blurred vision or flashes of light
- very tired or weak, little or no energy

Call 9-1-1 if you have any of these side effects:

- worsening shortness of breath
- chest pain or pressure
- swelling of the face, throat, tongue, lip, or eyes (*signs of an allergic reaction*)

Can I reduce the side effects?

Yes. Here are some ways you can reduce your chances of having these side effects:

- Get up slowly when changing positions, such as when going from lying to standing or sitting to standing.
- Check your heart rate at least one time each day to make sure it stays at 50 or more beats in one minute.

Contact your doctor *right away* in these situations:

- heart rate stays less than 50 beats a minute
- new or worsening signs of heart failure

How do I take this kind of medicine?

It is best to take it with food.

Take the medicine as directed by your doctor. Your doctor could change the dose, depending on how it affects you.

What if I miss taking a dose?

If you miss a dose, take your next dose at its usual time. **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time.

Is there anything else I should know?

- Let your doctor know if you take any natural remedies or medicines. They could react with this medicine.
- **Do not** eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice. It changes how your body absorbs this medicine.
- Expect to go for an electrocardiogram (ECG) if your heart rhythm changes.
- Always check with your doctor before you stop taking this medicine.