31. **FLECAINIDE**

**Class:** Antiarrhythmic Agent, Class Ic

**Indications:** Prevention and suppression of documented life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias (eg, sustained ventricular tachycardia); controlling symptomatic, disabling supraventricular tachycardias in patients without structural heart disease in whom other agents fail

**Available dosage form in the hospital:** 10MG/ML AMP, 100MG TAB

**Dosage:**

- **Life-threatening ventricular arrhythmias:** Oral:
  
  Initial: 100 mg every 12 hours; increase by 50-100 mg/day (given in 2 doses/day) every 4 days; maximum: 400 mg/day

  - For patients receiving 400 mg/day who are not controlled and have trough concentrations <0.6 mcg/mL, dosage may be increased to 600 mg/day.

- **Prevention of paroxysmal supraventricular arrhythmias:** Oral: (Note: In patients with disabling symptoms but no structural heart disease): Initial: 50 mg every 12 hours; increase by 50 mg twice daily at 4-day intervals; maximum: 300 mg/day

- **Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation:** Outpatient: "Pill-in-the-pocket" dose (unlabeled dose): Oral: 200 mg (weight <70 kg), 300 mg (weight ≥70 kg). May not repeat in ≤24 hours. **Note:** An initial inpatient conversion trial should have been successful before sending patient home on this approach. Patient must be taking an AV nodal-blocking agent (eg, beta-blocker, nondihydropyridine calcium channel blocker) prior to initiation of antiarrhythmic.

**Renal Impairment:**

- GFR ≤50 mL/minute: Decrease dose by 50%; dose increases should be made cautiously at intervals >4 days and serum levels monitored frequently.

- Hemodialysis: No supplemental dose recommended.

- Peritoneal dialysis: No supplemental dose recommended.

**Hepatic Impairment:**

Monitoring of plasma levels is recommended because half-life is significantly increased. When transferring from another antiarrhythmic agent, allow for 2-4 half-lives of the agent to pass before initiating flecaainide therapy.

**Common side effect:** >10%:

Central nervous system: Dizziness (19% to 30%)

Ocular: Visual disturbances (16%)
Respiratory: Dyspnea (~10%

Pregnancy Risk Factor: C