

## CARVEDILOL

**Class:** Beta-Blocker With Alpha-Blocking Activity

**Indications:** Mild-to-severe heart failure of ischemic or cardiomyopathic origin (usually in addition to standard therapy); left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction (MI) (clinically stable with LVEF  $\leq$ 40%); management of hypertension.

**Use – Unlabeled:** Angina pectoris

**Dosage:** Reduce dosage if heart rate drops to <55 beats/minute

**Hypertension:** Oral:

Immediate release: 6.25 mg twice daily; if tolerated, dose should be maintained for 1-2 weeks, then increased to 12.5 mg twice daily. If necessary, dosage may be increased to a maximum of 25 mg twice daily after 1-2 weeks.

Extended release: Initial: 20 mg once daily, if tolerated, dose should be maintained for 1-2 weeks then increased to 40 mg once daily if necessary; maximum dose: 80 mg once daily

**Heart failure:** Oral:

Immediate release: 3.125 mg twice daily for 2 weeks; if this dose is tolerated, may increase to 6.25 mg twice daily. Double the dose every 2 weeks to the highest dose tolerated by patient. (Prior to initiating therapy, other heart failure medications should be stabilized and fluid retention minimized.)

Maximum recommended dose: Mild-to-moderate heart failure:

<85 kg: 25 mg twice daily , >85 kg: 50 mg twice daily

Severe heart failure: 25 mg twice daily

Extended release: Initial: 10 mg once daily for 2 weeks; if the dose is tolerated, increase dose to 20 mg, 40 mg, and 80 mg over successive intervals of at least 2 weeks. Maintain on lower dose if higher dose is not tolerated.

**Left ventricular dysfunction following MI:** Oral: **Note:** Should be initiated only after patient is hemodynamically stable and fluid retention has been minimized.

Immediate release: Initial 3.125-6.25 mg twice daily; increase dosage incrementally (ie, from 6.25-12.5 mg twice daily) at intervals of 3-10 days, based on tolerance, to a target dose of 25 mg twice daily.

Extended release: Initial: Extended release: Initial: 10-20 mg once daily; increase dosage incrementally at intervals of 3-10 days, based on tolerance, to a target dose of 80 mg once daily.

**Angina pectoris (unlabeled use):** Oral: Immediate release: 25-50 mg twice daily

**Dosing: Renal Impairment:** None necessary

**Dosing: Hepatic Impairment:** Use is contraindicated in severe liver dysfunction.

**Available dosage form in the hospital:** 6.25MG TAB, 25MG TAB

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

Cardiovascular: Hypotension (9% to 20%), Central nervous system: Dizziness (2% to 32%), fatigue (4% to 24%), Endocrine & metabolic: Hyperglycemia (5% to 12%)

Gastrointestinal: Diarrhea (1% to 12%), weight gain (10% to 12%), Neuromuscular & skeletal: Weakness (7% to 11%)

**Pregnancy Risk Factor:** C