

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 flecainide therapy.

Common side effect: $>10\%$:

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

Ocular: Visual disturbances (16%)

Respiratory: Dyspnea (~10%)

Pregnancy Risk Factor: C