

## PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

<sup>Pr</sup>RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup>

propafenone hydrochloride, film-coated tablets

This leaflet is PART III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup>. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

### ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

#### What the medication is used for:

- RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> is used to control certain types of irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias).

#### What it does:

RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> is a heart rate regulating agent. It acts on the metabolism of the heart muscles to block some of the irregular heartbeats. It also acts as a local anaesthetic, blocks the sodium current and slows down the potential of heart muscles reacting fast.

#### When it should not be used:

RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> should not be used if:

- you are allergic to any component of RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup>, including active ingredients and non-active ingredients;
- you have certain serious heart conditions;
- you have serious liver failure;
- you have certain respiratory conditions.

#### What the medicinal ingredient is:

propafenone hydrochloride

#### What the important non-medicinal ingredients are:

croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, magnesium stearate, maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol 400 and 6000, purified water, titanium dioxide

*For a full listing of non-medicinal ingredients see PART I of the Product Monograph.*

#### What dosage forms it comes in:

RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> is available as film-coated tablets in the following strengths: 150 mg and 300 mg.

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### Serious Warnings and Precautions

- RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> is intended for use only in patients with life-threatening irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias). Most anti-arrhythmic drugs have the potential to cause dangerous arrhythmias; some have been shown to be associated with an increase of sudden death. Your doctor will tell you about the risk and benefits of anti-arrhythmic therapy.

#### **BEFORE you use RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:**

- you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, or you are breast-feeding;
- you have any heart disease;
- you have abnormal blood cell counts;
- you have abnormal liver function;
- you have neuromuscular disease (e.g. myasthenia gravis);
- you have kidney disease;
- you have allergies to this drug or any of its ingredients.
- you perform tasks which require special attention (for example, driving automobile or operating dangerous machinery) because blurred vision, dizziness, fatigue and low blood pressure are common side effects associated with the administration of RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup>.

## INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

#### **Drugs that may interact with RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> include:**

- beta-blockers (e.g. propranolol, metoprolol);
- digoxin, venlafaxine, rifampin, cimetidine, quinidine, ketoconazole, erythromycin, amiodarone, phenobarbital;
- anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin);
- certain local anesthetics (e.g. lidocaine);
- certain antidepressants of the tricyclic group (e.g. desipramine), and other antidepressants (e.g. fluoxetine, paroxetine, fluvoxamine);
- some medication that can affect your immune system (e.g. cyclosporine);
- some HIV-antiviral medication (e.g. ritonavir, lopinavir/ritonavir);
- grapefruit juice.

## PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

#### Usual dose:

Dosage must be individualized. The usual adult dose of RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> is 150 mg which is to be taken every 8 hours, however your doctor may decide on different individual dosing.

**Overdose:**

If you or someone you know accidentally takes more than stated dose, contact your doctor immediately or go to the nearest hospital with the tablets. Tell your doctor or hospital how much was taken. Treat even small overdoses seriously.

**Missed Dose:**

If you forget to take one tablet, take another as soon as you remember, unless it is almost time for your next dose. If it is, do not take the missed tablet at all.

Never double-up on a missed dose.

*effects while taking RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup>, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

Check with your pharmacist or doctor **immediately**, if you experience any of the above symptoms of the serious side effects.

**HOW TO STORE IT**

Keep RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> and all other medicines out of reach of children.

RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> tablets should be stored at 15° to 25°C, protected from light and moisture.

Do not take your tablets after the expiry date shown on the label.

It is important to keep the RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> tablets in the original package.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Along with its needed effects, a medicine may cause some unwanted effects. These are referred to as “side effects”. Although not all of these side effects may occur, if they do occur they may need medical attention.

The most common side effects with RYTHMOL<sup>®</sup> are dizziness, feeling sick (nausea), vomiting, unusual taste and constipation. Other less common side effects may include headaches, blurred vision, abnormal muscular control (ataxia), difficulty in sleeping, tremor, drowsiness, dyspepsia, dry mouth, loss of appetite, abdominal pain/cramping, flatulence, tiredness, skin rash, weakness, chest pain, anxiety, severe sweating and pain in the joints.

*Check with your physician or pharmacist if you experience any unexpected effects, or are concerned by the above side effects.*

**REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS**

**To monitor drug safety, Health Canada through the Canada Vigilance Program collects information on serious and unexpected side effects of drugs. If you suspect you have had serious or unexpected reaction to this drug you may notify Canada Vigilance:**

**By toll-free telephone:** 1-866-234-2345  
**By toll-free fax:** 1-866-678-6789  
**Online:** [www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect](http://www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect)  
**By email:** [CanadaVigilance@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:CanadaVigilance@hc-sc.gc.ca)

**By regular mail:**  
 Canada Vigilance National Office  
 Marketed Health Products Safety and Effectiveness Information Bureau  
 Marketed Health Products Directorate  
 Health Products and Food Branch  
 Health Canada  
 Tunney’s Pasture, AL 0701C  
 Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom/effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	chest pain, irregular heart beats	✓	✓
	dizziness, lightheadedness, fainting	✓	✓
	liver problems (e.g., yellowing skin or eyes, prolonged vomiting and nausea or abdominal pain)	✓	✓
	bleeding problem (excessive bruising, easy bleeding)	✓	✓

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected*

**MORE INFORMATION**

This document plus the full Product Monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at:

<http://www.abbott.ca>  
 or by contacting the sponsor, Abbott Laboratories, Limited, Saint-Laurent, Qc H4S 1Z1 at:  
 1-800-699-9948

This leaflet was prepared by Abbott Laboratories, Limited.

Last revised: August 6, 2009