

# Nicorandil

## Information for Patients

### **You have been given a medicine called Nicorandil**

#### ***Why has my doctor given me nicorandil?***

Nicorandil is used for the prevention and long-term treatment of angina. It is usually used when angina becomes difficult to control by other drugs and is given as an additional treatment.

Check with your doctor if you are still not sure why you need nicorandil.

#### ***How does it work?***

Angina pain is caused when the amount of oxygen being supplied to the heart muscle isn't enough to enable it to carry out the amount of work you are asking it to do.

Nicorandil relaxes the muscles in the walls of veins and arteries which reduces the workload on the heart and improves the supply of oxygen to the heart muscle.

#### ***How should I take my nicorandil?***

Always follow the instructions on the label. Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop. The tablets are usually taken twice a day, usually morning and night.

#### ***What should I do if I miss a dose?***

Take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, do not take the one you missed. Take the next dose at the usual time. Do not double up the next dose.

### ***What are the side effects of nicorandil?***

All drugs have side effects but most people will not experience them.

The following can occur in some people:-

- headaches, however, these usually stop after a few days when the body adjusts to the tablets.
- flushing
- nausea
- dizziness
- skin, oral, or stomach ulceration, particularly if used alongside aspirin

When you start to take nicorandil you should not drive or operate machinery until you know that your ability is not affected by the tablets.

### ***Can I take other medicines while taking nicorandil?***

Yes, but some other medicines may affect how nicorandil works. It is important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines including ones that you buy over the counter.

This leaflet is not intended as a substitute for any advice that your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may give you.

More detailed information can be obtained from the manufacturers information leaflet.

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