

# Rythmol (propafenone) basics

**Treats certain types of abnormal heartbeats.** Rythmol (propafenone) is very effective at normalizing your heartbeat, but cannot be used if you have a history of certain heart conditions.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Rythmol (propafenone)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
<b>Possible side effects</b>	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
<b>Unusual taste</b> 14% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Nausea and/or vomiting</b> 11% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Dizziness</b> 9% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Constipation†</b>		[Red gradient bar]			
<b>Headache</b> 6% chance	[Red gradient bar]				
<b>Fatigue</b> 6% chance	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Don't crush, chew, or open the extended-release pill.
- You will need a to undergo an evaluation of your heart (ECG) before starting this medicine, as well as throughout treatment.
- When beginning Rythmol (propafenone), you will be started on a lower dose, which may change based on how you respond to the medication.
- Avoid activities that require you to be alert until you know how this drug affects your body.
- Report any signs of an infection to your doctor.
- If you miss a dose, skip it, and take the next dose at the usual time. Don't take 2 doses at the same time.

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Increased risk of death

Rythmol (propafenone) is only to be used to treat life-threatening abnormal atrial beats. It can lead to an increased risk of death in people who've had a heart attack. It can also cause new or worsened arrhythmias or heart failure, which can be fatal. Rythmol (propafenone) hasn't demonstrated that it prolongs survival in people who take it. For these reasons, it should only be used when no other options are available.

### Drug interactions

You can experience more side effects if you take certain medicines with Rythmol (propafenone). Let your doctor know what medicines including vitamins and supplements you're currently taking or planning on taking.

### Low white blood cells

Low white blood cell count can happen within the first 2 months of Rythmol (propafenone) therapy and upon stopping. This can lead to a higher chance of getting an infection. Call your doctor right away if you have symptoms of infection like fever, chills, or sore throat.