

Carvedilol (Coreg) Considerations for Use*

US/FDA Approved Indication: Heart Rate Control for Atrial Fibrillation

Black Box Warning*	Abrupt cessation may exacerbate angina pectoris and MI.
Mechanism of Action	Blocks binding of catecholamines to postsynaptic alpha-1, beta-1, and beta-2 receptors
Dosing†	<p><u>Non-acute setting or maintenance - Immediate release:</u> 3.125 to 25 mg PO every 12 hrs (up to 50 mg every 12 hrs for patients >85 kg).</p> <p><u>Non-acute setting or maintenance - Extended-release:</u> 10 to 80 mg PO daily</p> <p><u>Hepatic Impairment:</u> Not recommended for clinically-evident hepatic impairment</p> <p><u>Renal Impairment:</u> No dosage adjustments are needed</p>
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma • AV block • Bradycardia • cardiogenic shock • decompensated heart failure • sick sinus syndrome without pacemaker • hepatic disease
Major Side Effects	hypotension, bradycardia, bronchospasm, HF
Dosage forms and Strengths	PO: 3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg, 25 mg immediate-release tablets (Coreg®) 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg, 80 mg extended-release capsules (Coreg® CR)
Special Notes	<p>Non-selective beta-blocker.</p> <p>Abrupt cessation may precipitate angina, MI, arrhythmias, or rebound HTN; discontinue by tapering over 1-2 weeks.</p> <p><u>Dosing conversion:</u> 3.125 mg immediate-release BID = 10 mg CR 6.25 mg immediate-release BID = 20 mg CR 12.5 mg immediate-release BID = 40 mg CR 25 mg immediate-release BID = 80 mg CR</p>
Counseling	<p>Do not abruptly discontinue without physician's advice.</p> <p>Take with food and eight ounces of water at the same time every day</p> <p>Separate extended-release formulation and alcohol by at least 2 hours</p> <p>Take controlled-release formulation in the morning; the contents may be sprinkled over applesauce and consumed immediately</p>

*Refer to prescribing information for more complete information.

†Dosages given in the table may differ from those recommended by the manufacturers.

Sources:

1. American College of Cardiology (ACC), American Heart Association (AHA), and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC). *ACC/AHA/ESC 2006 Guidelines for the Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation*. Washington, DC: American College of Cardiology.
2. Heart Rhythm Society. *AF360 Pocket Guide: Practical Rate and Rhythm Management of Atrial Fibrillation*. 2010, Washington, DC: Heart Rhythm Society.
3. *Tarascon Pocket Pharmacopoeia*®2012.