# Propafenone (Rythmol) Considerations for Use*

**US/FDA Approved Indications:** Heart Rhythm Control for Atrial Fibrillation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Black Box Warning*</th>
<th>Proarrhythmic; only administer by trained personnel with continuous ECG monitoring, capable of identifying and treating acute ventricular arrhythmias. Potentially fatal ventricular arrhythmias may occur with/without QT prolongation and can lead to torsade de pointes.</th>
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<td><strong>Mechanism of Action</strong></td>
<td>Depresses phase 0 depolarization significantly, slows cardiac conduction significantly (Class 1C).</td>
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| **Dosing†** | **Cardioversion:** 600 mg PO x 1  
**Maintenance:** 150 to 300 mg PO every 8 hrs, or sustained release 225 to 425 mg every 12 hrs  
**Hepatic Impairment:** Give approximately 20-30% of the normal oral dosage for immediate-release tablets.  
**Renal Impairment:** No adjustments needed |
| **Contraindications** | • Asthma, acute bronchospasm  
• AV block  
• Bradycardia  
• cardiogenic shock  
• decompensated heart failure  
• electrolyte imbalance  
• sick sinus syndrome |
| **Major Side Effects** | QT prolongation, torsades de pointes |
| **Dosage forms and Strengths** | **PO:**  
150, 225, 300 mg immediate release tablets  
225, 325, 425 mg extended-release capsules |
| **Special Notes** | Do not use in patients with ischemic heart disease or LV dysfunction; increases risk of proarrhythmia.  
Additional AV nodal blocking agent may be required to maintain rate control when AF recurs.  
Potassium and magnesium levels should be within normal range prior to initiating and during therapy.  
Has many drug interactions. |
| **Counseling** | Report angina or signs/symptoms of congestive heart failure, new or worsened arrhythmias, or other cardiac dysfunction.  
Consult with a healthcare provider prior to new drug use (including OTC and herbals). |

*Refer to prescribing information for more complete information.  
†Dosages given in the table may differ from those recommended by the manufacturers.

**Sources:**