

# LOPRESOR® / SLOW LOPRESOR®

50mg and 100mg Tablets  
200mg Divitabs  
metoprolol tartrate

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## Consumer Medicine Information

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Lopresor and Slow Lopresor.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet was last updated on the date listed on the final page. More recent information on the medicine may be available.

**You should ensure that you speak to your pharmacist or doctor to obtain the most up-to-date information on the medicine. You can also download the most up-to-date leaflet from [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)**

Those updates may contain important information about the medicine and its use of which you should be aware.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.** You may need to read it again.

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### What Lopresor and Slow Lopresor is used for

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1. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor can be used to lower high blood pressure, also called hypertension

Everyone has blood pressure. This pressure helps to move your blood around your body. Your blood pressure may be different at various times of the day, depending on how busy you are. You have hypertension (high blood pressure) when your blood pressure stays higher than is needed, even when you are calm and relaxed.

There are usually no symptoms of hypertension. The only way of knowing that you have it is to have your blood pressure checked on a regular basis. You may feel fine and have no symptoms but, if high blood pressure is not treated, it can lead to serious health problems. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor helps to lower your blood pressure.

2. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor can be used to prevent a type of chest pain called angina

Angina is a pain or uncomfortable feeling in the chest, often spreading to the arms or neck and sometimes to the shoulders and back. This may be caused by too little blood and oxygen getting to the heart. The pain of angina is usually brought on by exercise or stress but it can also happen while you are resting.

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor helps to prevent angina from happening. It is not used to treat an attack once it starts.

3. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor can be used to treat heart problems accompanied by a feeling of fast

or irregular heartbeat and other disorders of heart function

4. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor can be used to prevent migraine headaches

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor belong to a group of medicines called beta-blockers. It works by affecting the body's response to some nerve impulses, especially in the heart. As a result, it decreases the heart's need for blood and oxygen and reduces the amount of work that the heart has to do. It also widens the blood vessels in the rest of the body.

5. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor can be used as additional medication in Hyperthyroidism

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor can be used alone or in combination with other medicines to treat your condition.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.** Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor are only available with a doctor's prescription. It is not addictive.

### Monitoring during your treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor

If you suffer from heart disorders, your doctor may perform blood test and monitor your heart function.

- If you suffer from high level of sugar in the blood (diabetes) your doctor may regularly check your level of sugar in the blood
- If you suffer from an overactive thyroid gland your doctor may regularly check your thyroid and heart functions.

- If you are taking or have recently taken other medicines, your doctor may perform some blood tests and monitor your heart function.

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## Before you take Lopresor or Slow Lopresor

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### *When you must not take it*

#### **Do not take Lopresor or Slow Lopresor if you have an allergy to:**

- metoprolol (the active ingredient) or to any of the other ingredients of Lopresor or Slow Lopresor listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other beta-blocker medicines

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include rash, itching or hives on the skin; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing.

#### **Do not take Lopresor or Slow Lopresor if you have any of the following medical conditions:**

- asthma, wheezing, difficulty breathing or other severe lung problems, or you have had these problems in the past
- a very slow heart beat, less than 45 to 50 beats per minute
- low blood pressure
- a severe blood vessel disorder causing poor circulation in the arms and legs
- pheochromocytoma (a rare tumour of the adrenal gland) which is not already being treated with other medicines
- certain other heart conditions

**If you are not sure whether any of the above medical conditions apply to you, check with your doctor.**

**Do not take Lopresor and Slow Lopresor after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

In that case, return it to your pharmacist.

#### **Do not give this medicine to a child.**

There is not enough information on its use in children.

### ***Before you start to take it***

#### **Tell your doctor if you are allergic to:**

- any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives
- bee or wasp stings

Your doctor will want to know if you are prone to allergies. Beta-blocker medicines can make an allergic reaction worse.

#### **Tell your doctor if you have any of the following medical conditions:**

- heart disorders
- high level of sugar in the blood (diabetes)
- an overactive thyroid gland
- liver problems
- certain types of angina such as Prinzmetal angina or variant angina
- poor blood circulation in your limbs (for example, very cold, pale hands or feet, or pain in your leg muscles when you walk).
- tumor of the medulla of the adrenal glands (pheochromocytoma), you would require an additional treatment to Lopresor or Slow Lopresor
- undergo an operation where an anesthetic is used during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor
- respiratory diseases such as asthma
- severe syndrome named oculomuocutaneous syndrome whose signs include severe conjunctivitis and skin rash and ear infection

#### **Tell your doctor if you notice or experience any of the following:**

- spontaneous bleeding or bruising during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor

- very slow heartbeat during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor
- yellow skin and eyes, nausea, loss of appetite, dark urine during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor
- irregular heart beat during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor
- breathlessness, difficulty breathing when lying down, swelling of the feet or legs during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor
- hallucinations during treatment with Lopresor or Slow Lopresor

#### **If you get any of symptoms, tell your doctor straight away.**

Your doctor may want to take special precautions if you have any of the above conditions.

#### **Tell your doctor if you are pregnant.**

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor may affect your baby, especially if you take it in the last few days before your baby is born. Your doctor can discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medicine during pregnancy.

#### **Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed.**

The active ingredients in Lopresor and Slow Lopresor pass into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby could be affected.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell him/her before you take Lopresor and Slow Lopresor.**

### ***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.** Other medicines and Lopresor and Slow Lopresor may interfere with each other. These medicines include:

- other beta-blocker medicines including eye drops
- other medicines used to treat high blood pressure such as

calcium channel blockers and clonidine

- other medicines used to treat irregular heart beat (arrhythmias)
- medicines for diabetes
- some local and general anaesthetics used during surgery
- monoamine-oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) medicines
- indomethacin, a medicine for arthritis, pain or inflammation
- cimetidine, a medicine for stomach ulcers
- medicines used to treat depression (fluoxetine, paroxetine or bupropion)
- medicines for mental disorders (thioridazine)
- medicines for HIV/AIDS (ritonavir )
- medicines used to treat allergies/hayfever (diphenhydramine)
- medicines to treat malaria (hydroxychloroquine, quinidine)
- medicines used to treat fungal infections (terbinafine)
- ergot alkaloids, a class of medicines used in the prevention and treatment of migraine headaches
- dipyridamole, a medicine use to reduce the risk of blot clots.
- other medicines that may cause a decrease in heart rate (e.g. fingolimod, a medicine used to treat multiple sclerosis)
- other medicines that may cause a decrease in blood pressure (e.g. aldesleukin, a medicine used to treat kidney cancer)

You may need to take different amounts of your medicines or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Lopresor and Slow Lopresor.

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## How to take Lopresor and Slow Lopresor

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**Follow the directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.**

These directions may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions on the label, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

### **How much to take**

High blood pressure: the usual dose is from 100 mg to 200 mg each day, either as a single dose or divided into two doses (morning and evening).  
Divitabs: 1 Divitab in the morning.  
In mild hypertension  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one Divitab taken early in the morning may suffice. If necessary, another antihypertensive can be prescribed in addition.

Angina: the usual dose is from 100 mg to 200 mg each day, divided into two doses, the daily dose can be increased to 400mg.  
Divitabs:  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1 Divitab taken in the morning; if necessary, this dose can be repeated in the evening.

Heart problems accompanied by a fast or irregular heart beat; the usual dose is 100mg to 200mg daily, given as a single dose in the morning or as 2 divided doses (morning and evening)

Prevention of migraine: the usual dose is 100 mg given as a single dose in the morning; if necessary, the daily dose can be increased to 200 mg each day, divided into two doses (morning and evening).  
Divitabs:  $\frac{1}{2}$  of one Divitab daily, given in the morning; if necessary the daily dosage can be raised to 1 Divitab to be taken as a single dose in the morning.

Hyperthyroidism: the usual dose is 150 to 200 mg each day, divided into three or four doses, the daily dose can be increased to 400 mg.

### **How to take it**

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor should be swallowed un-chewed with a glass of water.

Lopresor: If you are advised to take Lopresor either with food or without food then you should continue taking

Lopresor with the same schedule during the entire duration of the treatment.

Slow Lopresor: You can take Slow Lopresor with or without food.

### **How long to take it**

**Continue taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor for as long as your doctor tells you to.**

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor help to control your symptoms but it does not cure your condition. Your doctor will check your progress to make sure the medicine is working and will decide how long your treatment should continue. If you are unsure, talk to your doctor.

### **If you forget to take it**

**If it is almost time for your next dose (eg. within 2 or 3 hours), skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.**

**Otherwise, take the dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.**

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the one that you missed.**

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

**If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.**

### **If you take too much**

**Immediately telephone your doctor or National Poisons Centre, Dunedin (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to the Accident and Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Lopresor or Slow Lopresor. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

**Keep the telephone numbers for these places handy.**

Symptoms of an overdose may include feeling sick and vomiting, bluish skin and nails, very low blood

pressure, slow heart beat or an irregular heartbeat, breathlessness, difficulty breathing when lying down, swelling of the feet, fainting, convulsions (fits), nausea, vomiting, blue discoloration of the lips, tongue, skin, seizures, coma, sudden and oppressive chest pain and death .

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## While you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor

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### ***Things you must do***

**Be sure to keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

This helps your doctor to give you the best treatment and to prevent unwanted side effects from happening.

**If you become pregnant while taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor, tell your doctor.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits of taking it while you are pregnant.

**If you have an allergic reaction to a food, another medicine or an insect sting while you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor, tell your doctor immediately.**

There is a chance that Lopresor or Slow Lopresor could make the allergic reaction worse or harder to treat.

**If you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint when getting out of bed or standing up, get up slowly.**

You may feel light-headed or dizzy when you start to take Lopresor or Slow Lopresor. This is because your blood pressure is falling suddenly. If this problem doesn't go away, talk to your doctor.

To avoid symptoms of low blood pressure, here are some hints that may help:

- Stand up slowly to help your body get used to the change in position and blood pressure
- If you feel dizzy, sit or lie down until you feel better

- If you feel faint, breathe deeply and bend forward with your head between your knees
- Take extra care when exercising, driving or standing for long periods, especially in hot weather. Drink plenty of fluids, especially if you sweat a lot.

**If you are being treated for diabetes, make sure you check your blood sugar regularly and report any problems to your doctor.**

Lopresor or Slow Lopresor may change how well your diabetes is controlled. It may also prevent some of the warning signs of low blood sugar, such as fast heart beat, and may make low blood sugar last longer. The dose of your diabetes medicines may need to be changed.

**If you plan to have surgery and will need an anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor.**

This will help your doctor to prevent unwanted side effects such as a sudden drop in blood pressure.

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor.**

**Tell any other doctor, dentist or pharmacist who treats you that you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor.**

### ***Things you must not do***

**Do not stop taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor without telling your doctor first.**

Your doctor may want to gradually reduce the amount of Lopresor or Slow Lopresor you are taking before stopping it completely. This helps to reduce the chance of your condition becoming worse or keep other unwanted heart problems from happening.

**Do not use Lopresor or Slow Lopresor to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says you can.**

**Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem to be similar to yours.**

### ***Things to be careful of***

**Be careful driving, operating machinery or doing jobs that require you to be alert while you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor until you know how it affects you.**

As with other beta-blocker medicines, Lopresor or Slow Lopresor may cause dizziness, light-headedness or decreased alertness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive or do anything else that could be dangerous.

**Be careful to dress warmly during cold weather, especially if you will be outside for a long time.**

Like other beta-blocker medicines, Lopresor or Slow Lopresor may make you more sensitive to cold temperatures, especially if you have problems with your blood circulation. These medicines tend to decrease blood circulation in the skin, fingers and toes.

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## Side effects

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor.**

All medicines have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects. If you are over 65 years of age, you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects and they worry you:**

- tiredness, drowsiness, decreased alertness
- dizziness, spinning sensation (vertigo), light-headedness or fainting
- headache or other aches and pains
- difficulty sleeping, nightmares
- depression or other changes in mood
- stomach upset, nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting
- diarrhoea or constipation
- dry or irritated eyes, blurred vision
- buzzing or ringing in the ears, difficulty hearing
- dry mouth
- increased sweating
- runny nose
- problems with sexual function
- weight gain
- hair thinning
- abnormal liver function test results
- confusional states
- abnormal triglyceride values
- abnormal cholesterol blood values
- abdominal pain
- fatigue
- difficulty breathing with wheezing or coughing
- swelling
- palpitation
- decreased alertness, somnolence or insomnia (trouble in sleeping)
- numbness, tingling in the extremities, signs of paresthesia
- gangrene in patients with pre-existing severe peripheral circulatory disorders
- abnormally increased amount of sweating
- worsening of thickened patches of red/silver skin, signs of psoriasis worsening
- joint pain and stiffness, signs of arthritis
- change in sex drive
- change in ability to achieve or maintain an erection
- increased weight
- lower back pain, kidney disorder, increased blood pressure, blot clots are possible signs of a proliferation of fibrous tissue in the part of the body (named retroperitoneum) containing the

kidneys, aorta, renal tract and various other structures

**Tell your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:**

- signs of allergy such as swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause problems with swallowing or breathing
- chest tightness, wheezing, rattly breathing
- shortness of breath, sometimes with tiredness, weakness or reduced ability to exercise
- swelling of the feet or legs due to fluid buildup
- coldness, burning, numbness or pain in arms and legs
- chest pain
- changes in heart rate (fast, slow, irregular)
- yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), sometimes with pain in the abdomen
- constant “flu-like” symptoms (chills, fever, sore throat, aching joints, swollen glands, tiredness or lack of energy)
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- skin reactions (rash, itching, worsening of psoriasis)
- symptoms of sunburn (redness, itching, swelling, blistering) that happen much more quickly than normal
- abnormal thinking or hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there)
- breathlessness, difficulty breathing when lying down, swelling of the feet or legs, signs of heart disorders
- numb or cold toes and fingers possible signs of Raynaud's syndrome

The above side effects could be serious. You may need urgent medical attention.

**Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may happen in some people.

## After taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor

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### Storage

- Keep your tablets in the original container until it is time to take them.
- Store the tablets in a cool dry place at room temperature.
- Do not store Lopresor and Slow Lopresor or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.
- Do not leave the tablets in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines. Lopresor and Slow Lopresor will keep well if it is cool and dry.

**Keep this medicine where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### Disposal

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking Lopresor or Slow Lopresor, or the expiry date on the medicine has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.**

## Product description

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### What it looks like

Lopresor 50 mg: rose pink, heart-shaped, film coated tablet, marked HM on one side and CIBA on the other; packs of 100 tablets.

Lopresor 100 mg: light blue, heart-shaped, film coated, scored tablet, marked IP on one side and CIBA on the other; packs of 60 tablets.

Slow Lopresor 200mg: light yellow, capsule shaped, film coated, scored tablet, marked CG/CC on one side and CDC/CDC on the other; packs of 28 divitabs.

## **Ingredients**

Lopresor tablets contain 50 mg or 100 mg metoprolol tartrate as the active ingredient.

The 50mg tablets also contain:

- silica aerogel
- cellulose
- lactose
- magnesium stearate
- polyvinylpyrrolidone
- sodium carboxymethyl starch
- hydroxypropyl methylcellulose
- red iron oxide
- polysorbate 80
- talc
- titanium dioxide

The 100 mg tablets also contain:

- silica aerogel
- cellulose
- magnesium stearate
- sodium carboxymethyl starch
- hydroxypropyl methylcellulose
- glyceryl polyethylene glycol oxystearate
- talc
- titanium dioxide

Slow Lopresor contains 200mg metoprolol tartrate as the active ingredient. It also contains:

- silica aerogel
- cellulose
- dibasic calcium phosphate
- copolymer based on polyacrylic/methacrylic esters
- magnesium stearate
- hydroxypropyl methylcellulose
- glycol palmitostearate
- yellow iron oxide
- polysorbate 80
- talc
- titanium dioxide

## **Sponsor**

Lopresor and Slow Lopresor is supplied in New Zealand by:

Novartis New Zealand Limited  
PO Box 99102  
Newmarket  
Auckland 1149  
Telephone 0800 354 335

® = Registered Trademark

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