

**Slow-Trasicor : 160mg oxprenolol hydrochloride in a sustained-release formulation.**

**Contributors**

Ciba Laboratories

**Publication/Creation**

1977.

**Persistent URL**

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To the Medical and Pharmaceutical Professions

# **SLOW-TRASICOR**

160mg oxprenolol hydrochloride in a sustained-release formulation

## **once daily beta-blocker therapy for hypertension**

### **Prescribing Notes**

#### **Dosage in Angina**

Initially one tablet daily, given in the morning. This can be increased to two or three tablets, usually given once daily depending on patient response. An evening dose may be beneficial in nocturnal angina. Increased dosage is related to increased exercise tolerance, but doses higher than three tablets should not normally be required. Slow-Trasicor is compatible with glyceryl trinitrate and the two drugs are complementary since they reduce heart work by different mechanisms. It may be possible, however, to reduce the use of glyceryl trinitrate when the patient has become established on Slow-Trasicor.

As with other beta-blocking drugs, sudden withdrawal of treatment may induce severe and continuous angina. Patients should, therefore, be advised to avoid interruption of established therapy and if withdrawal becomes necessary it should be done gradually.

#### **Dosage in Hypertension**

Initially one tablet daily, given in the morning. If necessary, this dose can be raised to two or more tablets usually given once daily until satisfactory blood pressure control is achieved. However, in conjunction with a diuretic most patients should respond to one or two tablets. Occasionally, higher doses will be needed. The addition of a thiazide diuretic to Slow-Trasicor will often give a more satisfactory and quicker response. Most of the antihypertensive effect of Slow-Trasicor/diuretic combinations is achieved within two or three days but maximum benefits may not develop until four to eight weeks later. Slow-Trasicor can be successfully combined with other antihypertensive therapy and the addition of a vasodilator (e.g. Apresoline®) will often enable control to be achieved in the minority of patients who might otherwise fail to respond.

**Side effects**

Dizziness, drowsiness, headache, insomnia, excitement and gastrointestinal disturbance may occur and, rarely, isolated cases of excessive bradycardia have been reported. As with other beta-blockers, bronchospasm and heart failure may occasionally be precipitated in susceptible patients (see precautions). However, the incidence of these side effects is low, possibly due to the partial protection afforded by the sympathomimetic effect of Slow-Trasicor.

**Precautions**

If there is evidence of cardiac failure this must be controlled by digitalis and/or diuretics before and during Slow-Trasicor therapy. Should the pulse rate fall below 50 per minute, then treatment should be restarted at a lower dose. Caution should be observed when treating asthmatics, chronic bronchitics or other individuals where bronchospasm may be provoked.

Slow-Trasicor should be given cautiously to patients with diabetes (insulin requirements may be reduced), alcoholism, metabolic acidosis, during pregnancy or anaesthesia with ether or chloroform. Occasionally, hypotension may occur, particularly with higher dose levels.

**Contra-indications**

Slow-Trasicor is contra-indicated in patients with atrio-ventricular block, marked bradycardia and cardiogenic shock.

**Treatment of overdose**

Overdosage with Slow-Trasicor may lead to excessive bradycardia or hypotension. The injection of 1-2mg atropine sulphate intravenously should permit the heart to function at its own intrinsic rate, free from vagal interference. Isoprenaline hydrochloride should be administered intravenously if atropine does not raise the heart rate sufficiently. The dose of isoprenaline must be sufficient to reverse the blockade and needs to be assessed by the clinical response. A reasonable starting dose would be 25 micrograms isoprenaline hydrochloride. Because this is a slow-release formulation, it is likely that the effects of overdose will be more persistent than following the standard preparation.

**Packs**

Slow-Trasicor tablets each containing 160mg sustained-release oxprenolol hydrochloride. Carton of 28 contains two daily reminder calendar foils of 14 tablets.

Basic NHS price 28 £5.84

PL0008/0130

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Full prescribing information is available on request from  
CIBA Laboratories, Horsham, West Sussex.

D643 Apr 77