

**HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION**

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use CARVEDILOL TABLETS safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for CARVEDILOL TABLETS USP

**CARVEDILOL TABLETS USP**

Initial U.S. Approval: 1995

**RECENT MAJOR CHANGES**

Warnings and Precautions, Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome (5.14) January 2011

**INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

Carvedilol is an alpha/beta-adrenergic blocking agent indicated for the treatment of:

- Left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction in clinically stable patients (1.2)
- Hypertension (1.3)

**DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Take with food. Individualize dosage and monitor during up-titration. (2)

- Left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction: Start at 6.25 mg twice daily and increase to 12.5 mg then 25 mg twice daily after intervals of 3 to 10 days. A lower starting dose or slower titration may be used. (2.2)
- Hypertension: Start at 6.25 mg twice daily and increase if needed for blood pressure control to 12.5 mg then 25 mg twice daily over intervals of 1 to 2 weeks. (2.3)

**DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

Tablets: 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25 mg (3)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

- Bronchial asthma or related bronchospastic conditions (4)
- Second- or third-degree AV block (4)
- Sick sinus syndrome (4)
- Severe bradycardia (unless permanent pacemaker in place) (4)
- Patients in cardiogenic shock or decompensated heart failure requiring the use of IV inotropic therapy. (4)
- Severe hepatic impairment (2.4)
- History of serious hypersensitivity reaction (e.g., Stevens-Johnson syndrome, anaphylactic reaction, angioedema) to any component of this medication or other medications containing carvedilol. (4)

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**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION****1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE****1.2 Left Ventricular Dysfunction Following Myocardial Infarction**

Carvedilol is indicated to reduce cardiovascular mortality in clinically stable patients who have survived the acute phase of a myocardial infarction and have a left ventricular ejection fraction of 40% (with or without symptomatic heart failure) [see *Clinical Studies* (14.2)].

**1.3 Hypertension**

Carvedilol is indicated for the management of essential hypertension [see *Clinical Studies* (14.3, 14.4)]. It can be used alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents, especially thiazide-type diuretics [see *Drug Interactions* (7.2)].

**2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

Carvedilol should be taken with food to slow the rate of absorption and reduce the incidence of orthostatic effects.

**2.2 Left Ventricular Dysfunction Following Myocardial Infarction**

DOSAGE MUST BE INDIVIDUALIZED AND MONITORED DURING UP-TITRATION.

Treatment with Carvedilol Tablets may be started as an inpatient or outpatient and should be started after the patient is hemodynamically stable and fluid retention has been minimized. It is recommended that Carvedilol Tablets be started at 6.25 mg twice daily and increased after 3 to 10 days, based on tolerability, to 12.5 mg twice daily, then again to the target dose of 25 mg twice daily. A lower starting dose may be used (3.125 mg twice daily) and/or the rate of up-titration may be slowed if clinically indicated (e.g., due to low blood pressure or heart rate, or fluid retention). Patients should be maintained on lower doses if higher doses are not tolerated. The recommended dosing regimen need not be altered in patients who received treatment with an IV or oral  $\beta$ -blocker during the acute phase of the myocardial infarction.

**2.3 Hypertension**

DOSAGE MUST BE INDIVIDUALIZED. The recommended starting dose of Carvedilol Tablets is 6.25 mg twice daily. If this dose is tolerated, using standing systolic pressure measured about 1 hour after dosing as a guide, the dose should be maintained for 7 to 14 days, and then increased to 12.5 mg twice daily if needed, based on trough blood pressure, again using standing systolic pressure one hour after dosing as a guide for tolerance. This dose should also be maintained for 7 to 14 days and can then be adjusted upward to 25 mg twice daily if tolerated and needed. The full antihypertensive effect of Carvedilol Tablets is seen within 7 to 14 days. Total daily dose should not exceed 50 mg.

Concomitant administration with a diuretic can be expected to produce additive effects and exaggerate the orthostatic component of carvedilol action.

**2.4 Hepatic Impairment**

Carvedilol Tablets should not be given to patients with severe hepatic impairment [see *Contraindications* (4)].

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS**

The white, oval shaped, biconvex film-coated tablets are available in the following strengths: 3.125 mg—Each white, Oval shaped, biconvex, film coated tablet engraved with 254 on one side and plain on the other side, 6.25 mg— Each white, Oval shaped, biconvex, film coated tablet engraved with 255 on one side and plain on the other side, 12.5 mg— Each white, Oval shaped, biconvex, film coated tablet engraved with 256 on one side and plain on the other side, and 25 mg— Each white, Oval shaped, biconvex, film coated tablet engraved with 257 on one side and plain on the other side.

**4 CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Carvedilol is contraindicated in the following conditions:

- Bronchial asthma or related bronchospastic conditions. Deaths from status asthmaticus have been reported following single doses of Carvedilol.
- Second- or third-degree AV block
- Sick sinus syndrome
- Severe bradycardia (unless a permanent pacemaker is in place)
- Patients with cardiogenic shock or who have decompensated heart failure requiring the use of intravenous inotropic therapy. Such patients should first be weaned from intravenous therapy before initiating carvedilol.
- Patients with severe hepatic impairment
- Patients with a history of a serious hypersensitivity reaction (e.g., Stevens-Johnson syndrome, anaphylactic reaction, angioedema) to any component of this medication or other medications containing carvedilol.

**5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS****5.1 Cessation of Therapy**

Patients with coronary artery disease, who are being treated with CARVEDILOL, should be advised against abrupt discontinuation of therapy. Severe exacerbation of angina and the occurrence of myocardial infarction and ventricular arrhythmias have been reported in angina patients following the abrupt discontinuation of therapy with  $\beta$ -blockers. The last 2 complications may occur with or without preceding exacerbation of the angina pectoris. As with other  $\beta$ -blockers, when discontinuation of CARVEDILOL is planned, the patients should be carefully observed and advised to limit physical activity to a minimum. CARVEDILOL should be discontinued over 1 to 2 weeks whenever possible. If the angina worsens or acute coronary insufficiency develops, it is recommended that CARVEDILOL be promptly reinstated, at least temporarily. Because coronary artery disease is common and may be unrecognized, it may be prudent not to discontinue therapy with CARVEDILOL abruptly even in patients treated only for hypertension or heart failure.

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- Acute exacerbation of coronary artery disease upon cessation of therapy: Do not abruptly discontinue. (5.1)
- Bradycardia, hypotension, worsening heart failure/fluid retention may occur. Reduce the dose as needed. (5.2,5.3, 5.4)
- Non-allergic bronchospasm (e.g., chronic bronchitis and emphysema): Avoid  $\beta$ -blockers. (4). However, if deemed necessary, use with caution and at lowest effective dose. (5.5)
- Diabetes: Monitor glucose as  $\beta$ -blockers may mask symptoms of hypoglycemia or worsen hyperglycemia. (5.6)

**ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Most common adverse events (6.1):

- Left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction ( $\geq 10\%$ ): Dizziness, fatigue, hypotension, diarrhea, hyperglycemia, asthenia, bradycardia, weight increase.
- Hypertension ( $\geq 5.0\%$ ): Dizziness

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or WWW.fda.gov/medwatch

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**

- CYP P450 2D6 enzyme inhibitors may increase and rifampin may decrease carvedilol levels. (7.1, 7.5)
- Hypotensive agents (e.g., reserpine, MAO inhibitors, clonidine) may increase the risk of hypotension and/or severe bradycardia. (7.2)
- Cyclosporine or digoxin levels may increase. (7.3, 7.4)
- Both digitalis glycosides and  $\beta$ -blockers slow atrioventricular conduction and decrease heart rate. Concomitant use can increase the risk of bradycardia. (7.4)
- Amiodarone may increase carvedilol levels resulting in further slowing of the heart rate or cardiac conduction. (7.6)
- Verapamil- or diltiazem-type calcium channel blockers may affect ECG and/or blood pressure. (7.7)
- Insulin and oral hypoglycemics action may be enhanced. (7.8)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA -approved patient labeling

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- Cyclosporine
- Digitalis Glycosides
- Inducers/Inhibitors of Hepatic Metabolism
- Amiodarone
- Calcium Channel Blockers
- Insulin or Oral Hypoglycemics

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**5.2 Bradycardia**

In clinical trials, Carvedilol caused bradycardia in about 2% of hypertensive patients, 9% of heart failure patients, and 6.5% of myocardial infarction patients with left ventricular dysfunction. If pulse rate drops below 55 beats/minute, the dosage should be reduced.

**5.3 Hypotension**

Postural hypotension occurred in 1.8% and syncope in 0.1% of hypertensive patients, primarily following the initial dose or at the time of dose increase and was a cause for discontinuation of therapy in 1% of patients.

In the CAPRICORN study of survivors of an acute myocardial infarction, hypotension or postural hypotension occurred in 20.2% of patients receiving carvedilol compared to 12.6% of placebo patients. Syncope was reported in 3.9% and 1.9% of patients, respectively. These events were a cause for discontinuation of therapy in 2.5% of patients receiving carvedilol, compared to 0.2% of placebo patients.

Starting with a low dose, administration with food, and gradual up-titration should decrease the likelihood of syncope or excessive hypotension [see *Dosage and Administration* (2.2, 2.3)]. During initiation of therapy, the patient should be cautioned to avoid situations such as driving or hazardous tasks, where injury could result should syncope occur.

**5.4 Heart Failure/Fluid Retention**

Worsening heart failure or fluid retention may occur during up-titration of carvedilol. If such symptoms occur, diuretics should be increased and the carvedilol dose should not be advanced until clinical stability resumes [see *Dosage and Administration* (2)]. Occasionally it is necessary to lower the carvedilol dose or temporarily discontinue it. Such episodes do not preclude subsequent successful titration of, or a favorable response to carvedilol.

**5.5 Non-allergic Bronchospasm**

Patients with bronchospastic disease (e.g., chronic bronchitis and emphysema) should, in general, not receive  $\beta$ -blockers. Carvedilol may be used with caution, however, in patients who do not respond to, or cannot tolerate, other antihypertensive agents. It is prudent, if carvedilol is used, to use the smallest effective dose, so that inhibition of endogenous or exogenous  $\beta$ -agonists is minimized.

In clinical trials of patients with heart failure, patients with bronchospastic disease were enrolled if they did not require oral or inhaled medication to treat their bronchospastic disease. In such patients, it is recommended that carvedilol be used with caution. The dosing recommendations should be followed closely and the dose should be lowered if any evidence of bronchospasm is observed during up-titration.

**5.6 Glycemic Control in Type 2 Diabetes**

In general,  $\beta$ -blockers may mask some of the manifestations of hypoglycemia, particularly tachycardia. Nonselective  $\beta$ -blockers may potentiate insulin-induced hypoglycemia and delay recovery of serum glucose levels. Patients subject to spontaneous hypoglycemia, or diabetic patients receiving insulin or oral hypoglycemic agents, should be cautioned about these possibilities. Studies designed to examine the effects of carvedilol on glycemic control in patients with diabetes and heart failure have not been conducted.

In a study designed to examine the effects of carvedilol on glycemic control in a population with mild-to-moderate hypertension and well-controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus, carvedilol had no adverse effect on glycemic control, based on HbA1c measurements [see *Clinical Studies* (14.4)].

**5.7 Peripheral Vascular Disease**

$\beta$ -blockers can precipitate or aggravate symptoms of arterial insufficiency in patients with peripheral vascular disease. Caution should be exercised in such individuals.

**5.8 Deterioration of Renal Function**

Rarely, use of carvedilol in patients with heart failure has resulted in deterioration of renal function. Patients at risk appear to be those with low blood pressure (systolic blood pressure <100 mm Hg), ischemic heart disease and diffuse vascular disease, and/or underlying renal insufficiency. Renal function has returned to baseline when carvedilol was stopped. In patients with these risk factors it is recommended that renal function be monitored during up-titration of carvedilol and the drug discontinued or dosage reduced if worsening of renal function occurs.

**5.9 Major Surgery**

If treatment with carvedilol is to be continued perioperatively, particular care should be taken when anesthetic agents which depress myocardial function, such as ether, cyclopropane and trichloroethylene are used [See *overdosage* (10) for information on treatment of bradycardia and hypertension].

**5.10 Thyrotoxicosis**

$\beta$ -adrenergic blockade may mask clinical signs of hyperthyroidism, such as tachycardia. Abrupt withdrawal of  $\beta$ -blockade may be followed by an exacerbation of the symptoms of hyperthyroidism or may precipitate thyroid storm.

**5.11 Pheochromocytoma**

In patients with pheochromocytoma, an  $\alpha$ -blocking agent should be initiated prior to the use of any  $\beta$ -blocking agent. Although carvedilol has both  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -blocking pharmacologic activities, there has been no experience with its use in this condition. Therefore, caution should be taken in the administration of carvedilol to patients suspected of having pheochromocytoma.

**5.12 Prinzmetal's Variant Angina**

Agents with non-selective  $\beta$ -blocking activity may provoke chest pain in patients with Prinzmetal's variant angina. There has been no clinical experience with carvedilol in these patients although the  $\alpha$ -blocking activity may prevent such symptoms. However, caution should be taken in the administration

of carvedilol to patients suspected of having Prinzmetal's variant angina.

**5.13 Risk of Anaphylactic Reaction**

While taking  $\beta$ -blockers, patients with a history of severe anaphylactic reaction to a variety of allergens may be more reactive to repeated challenge, either accidental, diagnostic, or therapeutic. Such patients may be unresponsive to the usual doses of epinephrine used to treat allergic reaction.

**5.14 Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome**

Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS) has been observed during cataract surgery in some patients treated with  $\alpha$ -1 blockers (Carvedilol is an alpha/beta blocker). This variant of small pupil syndrome is characterized by the combination of a flaccid iris that billows in response to intraoperative irrigation currents, progressive intraoperative miosis despite preoperative dilation with standard mydriatic drugs, and potential prolapse of the iris toward the phacemulsification incisions. The patient's ophthalmologist should be prepared for possible modifications to the surgical technique, such as utilization of iris hooks, iris dilator rings, or viscoelastic substances. There does not appear to be a benefit of stopping alpha-1 blocker therapy prior to cataract surgery.

**6 ADVERSE REACTIONS****6.1 Clinical Studies Experience**

Carvedilol has been evaluated for safety in patients with heart failure (mild, moderate, and severe), in patients with left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction and in hypertensive patients. The observed adverse event profile was consistent with the pharmacology of the drug and the health status of the patients in the clinical trials. Adverse events reported for each of these patient populations are provided below. Excluded are adverse events considered too general to be informative, and those not reasonably associated with the use of the drug because they were associated with the condition being treated or are very common in the treated population. Rates of adverse events were generally similar across demographic subsets (men and women, elderly and non-elderly, blacks and non-blacks).

**Left Ventricular Dysfunction Following Myocardial Infarction**

Carvedilol has been evaluated for safety in patients of an acute myocardial infarction with left ventricular dysfunction in the CAPRICORN trial which involved 969 patients who received carvedilol and 980 who received placebo. Approximately 75% of the patients received carvedilol for at least 6 months and 53% received carvedilol for at least 12 months. Patients were treated for an average of 12.9 months and 12.8 months with carvedilol and placebo, respectively.

The following adverse events were reported with a frequency of >1% but  $\leq 3\%$  and more frequently with carvedilol: Flu syndrome, cerebrovascular accident, peripheral vascular disorder, hypotonia, depression, gastrointestinal pain, arthritis, and gout. The overall rates of discontinuations due to adverse events were similar in both groups of patients. In this database, the only cause of discontinuation >1%, and occurring more often on carvedilol was hypotension (1.5% on carvedilol, 0.2% on placebo).

**Hypertension**

Carvedilol has been evaluated for safety in hypertension in more than 2,193 patients in US clinical trials and in 2,976 patients in international clinical trials. Approximately 36% of the total treated population received carvedilol for at least 6 months. Most adverse events reported during therapy with carvedilol were of mild to moderate severity. In US controlled clinical trials directly comparing carvedilol in doses up to 50 mg (n = 1,142) to placebo (n = 462), 4.9% of patients receiving carvedilol discontinued for adverse events versus 5.2% of placebo patients. Although there was no overall difference in discontinuation rates, discontinuations were more common in the carvedilol group for postural hypotension (1% versus 0). The overall incidence of adverse events in US placebo-controlled trials increased with increasing dose of carvedilol. For individual adverse events this could only be distinguished for dizziness, which increased in frequency from 2% to 5% as total daily dose increased from 6.25 mg to 50 mg.

Table 1 shows adverse events in US placebo-controlled clinical trials for hypertension that occurred with an incidence of  $\geq 1\%$  regardless of causality, and that were more frequent in drug-treated patients than placebo-treated patients.

**Table 1. Adverse Events (%) Occurring in US Placebo-Controlled Hypertension Trials (Incidence  $\geq 1\%$ , Regardless of Causality)\***

	Carvedilol (n=1,142)	Placebo (n=462)
Cardiovascular		
Bradycardia	2	–
Postural hypotension	2	–
Peripheral edema	1	–
Central Nervous System		
Dizziness	6	5
Insomnia	2	1
Gastrointestinal		
Diarrhea	2	1
Hematologic		
Thrombocytopenia	1	–
Metabolic		
Hypertriglyceridemia	1	–

\* Shown are events with rate >1% rounded to nearest integer.

Dyspnea and fatigue were also reported in these studies, but the rates were equal or greater in patients who received placebo.

The following adverse events not described above were reported as possibly or probably related to carvedilol in worldwide open or controlled trials with carvedilol in patients with hypertension or heart failure.

**Incidence >0.1% to  $\leq 1\%$** 

**Cardiovascular:** Peripheral ischemia, tachycardia.

**Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** Hypokinesia.

**Gastrointestinal:** Bilirubinemia, increased hepatic enzymes (0.2% of hypertension patients and 0.4% of heart failure patients were discontinued from therapy because of increases in hepatic enzymes) [see *Adverse Reactions* (6.2)].

**Psychiatric:** Nervousness, sleep disorder, aggravated depression, impaired concentration, abnormal thinking, paroniria, emotional lability.

**Respiratory System:** Asthma [see *Contraindications* (4)].

**Reproductive, male:** Decreased libido.

**Skin and Appendages:** Pruritus, rash erythematous, rash maculopapular, rash psoriaform, photosensitivity reaction.

**Special Senses:** Tinnitus.

**Urinary System:** Micturition frequency increased.

**Autonomic Nervous System:** Dry mouth, sweating increased.

**Metabolic and Nutritional:** Hypokalemia, hypertriglyceridemia.

**Hematologic:** Anemia, leukopenia.

The following events were reported in  $\leq 0.1\%$  of patients and are potentially important: Complete AV block, bundle branch block, myocardial ischemia, cerebrovascular disorder, convulsions, migraine, neuralgia, paresis, anaphylactoid reaction, alopecia, exfoliative dermatitis, amnesia, GI hemorrhage, bronchospasm, pulmonary edema, decreased hearing, respiratory alkalosis, increased BUN, decreased HDL, pancytopenia, and atypical lymphocytes.

**6.2 Laboratory Abnormalities**

Reversible elevations in serum transaminases (ALT or AST) have been observed during treatment with carvedilol. Rates of transaminase elevations (2- to 3-times the upper limit of normal) observed during controlled clinical trials have generally been similar between patients treated with carvedilol and those treated with placebo. However, transaminase elevations, confirmed by rechallenge, have been observed with carvedilol. In a long-term, placebo-controlled trial in severe heart failure, patients treated with carvedilol had lower values for hepatic transaminases than patients treated with placebo, possibly because improvements in cardiac function induced by carvedilol led to less hepatic congestion and/or improved hepatic blood flow.

Carvedilol has not been associated with clinically significant changes in serum potassium, total triglycerides, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, uric acid, blood ura nitrogen, or creatinine. No clinically relevant changes were noted in fasting serum glucose in hypertensive patients.

**6.3 Postmarketing Experience**

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of carvedilol. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Reports of aplastic anemia and severe skin reactions (Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, and erythema multiforme) have been rare and received only when carvedilol was administered concomitantly with other medications associated with such reactions. Rare reports of hypersensitivity reactions (e.g., anaphylactic reaction, angioedema, and urticaria) have been received for carvedilol tablets and carvedilol phosphate extended-release capsules, including cases occurring after the initiation of carvedilol phosphate extended-release capsules in patients previously treated with carvedilol tablets. Urinary incontinence in women (which resolved upon discontinuation of the medication) and interstitial pneumonitis have been reported rarely.

**7 DRUG INTERACTIONS****7.1 CYP2D6 Inhibitors and Poor Metabolizers**

Interactions of carvedilol with potent inhibitors of CYP2D6 isoenzyme (such as quinidine, fluoxetine, paroxetine, and propafenone) have not been studied, but these drugs would be expected to increase blood levels of the R(+)-enantiomer of carvedilol [see *Clinical Pharmacology* (12.3)]. Retrospective analysis of side effects in clinical trials showed that poor 2D6 metabolizers had a higher rate of dizziness during up-titration, presumably resulting from vasodilating effects of the higher concentrations of the  $\alpha$ -blocking R(+)-enantiomer.

**7.2 Hypotensive Agents**

## 020001444 Carvedilol Tablets USP Open Size : 385 x 340mm Folding Size: 32 x 35 mm (40 gsm Bible with gluing) Date : 03.05.2011 (Back) V-3

dose. Take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

- If you take too much Carvedilol, call your doctor or poison control center right away.

### WHAT SHOULD I AVOID WHILE TAKING CARVEDILOL?

- Carvedilol can cause you to feel dizzy, tired, or faint. Do not drive a car, use machinery, or do anything that needs you to be alert if you have these symptoms.

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF CARVEDILOL?

- Low blood pressure (which may cause dizziness or fainting when you stand up).** If these happen, sit or lie down right away and tell your doctor.
- Tiredness.** If you feel tired or dizzy you should not drive, use machinery, or do anything that needs you to be alert.
- Slow heartbeat.**
- Changes in your blood sugar. If you have diabetes, tell your doctor if you have any changes in your blood sugar levels.**
- Carvedilol may hide some of the symptoms of low blood sugar, especially a fast heartbeat.
- Carvedilol may mask the symptoms of hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid).
- Worsening of severe allergic reactions.**
- Rare but serious allergic reactions (including hives or swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat that may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing) have happened in patients who were on carvedilol. These reactions can be life-threatening.

Other side effects of carvedilol include shortness of breath, weight gain, diarrhea, and fewer tears or dry eyes that become bothersome if you wear contact lenses. Call your doctor if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

### HOW SHOULD I STORE CARVEDILOL?

- Store Carvedilol tablets USP at less than 86°F (30°C). Keep the tablets dry.
- Safely, throw away carvedilol that is out of date or no longer needed.
- Keep carvedilol and all medicines out of the reach of children.

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CARVEDILOL

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those described in patient information leaflets. Do not use carvedilol for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give carvedilol to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about carvedilol. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about carvedilol that is written for healthcare professionals.

### WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS IN CARVEDILOL?

Active Ingredient: Carvedilol.

Inactive Ingredients: Colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, sodium citrate dihydrate, sucrose, and titanium dioxide.

Carvedilol tablets USP come in the following strengths:

3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg, and 25 mg.

Manufactured by:

Shasun Pharmaceuticals Limited, Unit II, R.S. No. 32, 33 & 34, Shasun Road, Periyakalpet, Puducherry 605014, India.

Mfg Lic. No. 05 13 1523

Manufactured for:

Beximco Pharmaceuticals USA Inc. 4110 Regal Oaks Drive, P.O. Box 1060, Suwanee, GA 30024, USA

Distributed by:

Solco Healthcare US, LLC Humacao, Puerto Rico 00791

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Revised – April 2011

properties and clonidine is to be terminated, the β-blocking agent should be discontinued first. Clonidine therapy can then be discontinued several days later by gradually decreasing the dosage.

#### 7.3 Cyclosporine

Modest increases in mean trough cyclosporine concentrations were observed following initiation of carvedilol treatment in 21 renal transplant patients suffering from chronic vascular rejection. In about 30% of patients, the dose of cyclosporine had to be reduced in order to maintain cyclosporine concentrations within the therapeutic range, while in the remainder no adjustment was needed. On the average for the group, the dose of cyclosporine was reduced about 20% in these patients. Due to wide interindividual variability in the dose adjustment required, it is recommended that cyclosporine concentrations be monitored closely after initiation of carvedilol therapy and that the dose of cyclosporine be adjusted as appropriate.

#### 7.4 Digitalis Glycosides

Both digitalis glycosides and β-blockers slow atrioventricular conduction and decrease heart rate. Concomitant use can increase the risk of bradycardia. Digoxin concentrations are increased by about 15% when digoxin and carvedilol are administered concomitantly. Therefore, increased monitoring of digoxin is recommended when initiating, adjusting, or discontinuing carvedilol *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.5)]*.

#### 7.5 Inducers/Inhibitors of Hepatic Metabolism

Rifampin reduced plasma concentrations of carvedilol by about 70% *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.5)]*. Cimetidine increased AUC by about 30% but caused no change in C<sub>max</sub> *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.5)]*.

#### 7.6 Amiodarone

Amiodarone, and its metabolite desethyl amiodarone, inhibitors of CYP2C9 and P-glycoprotein, increased concentrations of the S(-)- enantiomer of carvedilol by at least 2-fold *[see Clinical Pharmacology (12.5)]*. The concomitant administration of amiodarone or other CYP2C9 inhibitors such as fluconazole with carvedilol may enhance the β-blocking properties of carvedilol resulting in further slowing of the heart rate or cardiac conduction. Patients should be observed for signs of bradycardia or heart block, particularly when one agent is added to pre-existing treatment with the other.

#### 7.7 Calcium Channel Blockers

Conduction disturbance (rarely with hemodynamic compromise) has been observed when carvedilol is co-administered with diltiazem. As with other agents with β-blocking properties, if carvedilol is to be administered with calcium channel blockers of the verapamil or diltiazem type, it is recommended that ECG and blood pressure be monitored.

#### 7.8 Insulin or Oral Hypoglycemics

Agents with β-blocking properties may enhance the blood-sugar-reducing effect of insulin and oral hypoglycemics. Therefore, in patients taking insulin or oral hypoglycemics, regular monitoring of blood glucose is recommended *[see Warnings and Precautions (5.6)]*.

#### 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

##### 8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C. Studies performed in pregnant rats and rabbits given carvedilol revealed increased post-implantation loss in rats at doses of 300 mg/kg/day (50 times the maximum recommended human dose [MRHD] as mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and in rabbits at doses of 75 mg/kg/day (25 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>). In the rats, there was also a decrease in fetal body weight at the maternally toxic dose of 300 mg/kg/day (50 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>), which was accompanied by an elevation in the frequency of fetuses with delayed skeletal development (missing or stunted 13th rib). In rats the no-observed-effect level for developmental toxicity was 60 mg/kg/day (10 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>); in rabbits it was 15 mg/kg/day (5 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>). There are no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Carvedilol should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

##### 8.3 Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether this drug is excreted in human milk. Studies in rats have shown that carvedilol and/or its metabolites (as well as other β-blockers) cross the placental barrier and are excreted in breast milk. There was increased mortality at one week post-partum in neonates from rats treated with 60 mg/kg/day (10 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>) and above during the last trimester through day 22 of lactation. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from β-blockers, especially bradycardia, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. The effects of other α- and β-blocking agents have included prenatal and neonatal distress.

##### 8.4 Pediatric Use

Effectiveness of carvedilol in patients younger than 18 years of age has not been established.

In a double-blind trial, 161 children (mean age 6 years, range 2 months to 17 years; 45% less than 2 years old) with chronic heart failure [NYHA class II-IV, left ventricular ejection fraction <40% for children with a systemic left ventricle (LV), and moderate-severe ventricular dysfunction qualitatively by echo for those with a systemic ventricle that was not an LV] who were receiving standard background treatment were randomized to placebo or to 2 dose levels of carvedilol. These dose levels produced placebo-corrected heart rate reduction of 4-6 heart beats per minute, indicative of β-blockade activity. Exposure appeared to be lower in pediatric subjects than adults. After 8 months of follow-up, there was no significant effect of treatment on clinical outcomes. Adverse reactions in this trial that occurred in greater than 10% of patients treated with carvedilol and at twice the rate of placebo-treated patients included chest pain (17% versus 6%), dizziness (13% versus 2%), and dyspnea (11% versus 0%).

##### 8.5 Geriatric Use

Of the 975 myocardial infarction patients randomized to carvedilol in the CAPRICORN trial, 48% (468) were 65 years of age or older, and 11% (111) were 75 years of age or older.

Of the 2,065 hypertensive patients in US clinical trials of efficacy or safety who were treated with carvedilol, 21% (436) were 65 years of age or older. Of 3,722 patients receiving carvedilol in hypertension clinical trials conducted worldwide, 24% were 65 years of age or older.

With the exception of dizziness in hypertensive patients (incidence 8.8% in the elderly versus 6% in younger patients), no overall differences in the safety or effectiveness (see Figures 2 and 4) were observed between the older subjects and younger subjects in each of these populations. Similarly, other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger subjects, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out.

##### 10 OVERDOSAGE

Overdosage may cause severe hypotension, bradycardia, cardiac insufficiency, cardiogenic shock, and cardiac arrest. Respiratory problems, bronchospasms, vomiting, lapses of consciousness, and generalized seizures may also occur.

The patient should be placed in a supine position and, where necessary, kept under observation and treated under intensive-care conditions. Gastric lavage or pharmacologically induced emesis may be used shortly after ingestion. The following agents may be administered: *for excessive bradycardia*: Atropine, 2 mg IV to support cardiovascular function; Glucagon, 5 to 10 mg IV rapidly over 30 seconds, followed by a continuous infusion of 5 mg/hour; sympathomimetics (dobutamine, isoprenaline, adrenaline) at doses according to body weight and effect.

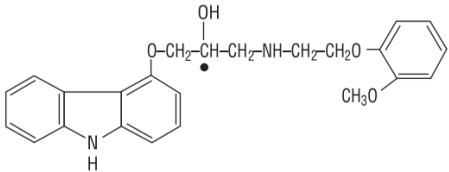
If peripheral vasodilation dominates, it may be necessary to administer adrenaline or noradrenaline with continuous monitoring of circulatory conditions. For therapy-resistant bradycardia, pacemaker therapy should be performed. For bronchospasm, β-sympathomimetics (as aerosol or IV) or aminophylline IV should be given. In the event of seizures, slow IV injection of diazepam or clonazepam is recommended.

NOTE: In the event of severe intoxication where there are symptoms of shock, treatment with antidotes must be continued for a sufficiently long period of time consistent with the 7- to 10-hour half-life of carvedilol.

Cases of overdosage with carvedilol alone or in combination with other drugs have been reported. Quantities ingested in some cases exceeded 1,000 milligrams. Symptoms experienced included low blood pressure and heart rate. Standard supportive treatment was provided and individuals recovered.

##### 11 DESCRIPTION

Carvedilol is a nonselective β-adrenergic blocking agent with α<sub>1</sub>-blocking activity. It is (+)-1-(Carbazol-4-ylloxy)-3-[[2-(methoxyphenoxy) ethyl] amino]-2-propanol. Carvedilol is a racemic mixture with the following structure:



Carvedilol is a white, oval-shaped, biconvex film-coated tablet containing 3.125 mg, 6.25 mg, 12.5 mg, or 25 mg of carvedilol. Inactive ingredients consist of colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, sodium citrate dihydrate, sucrose, and titanium dioxide.

Carvedilol is a white to off-white powder with a molecular weight of 406.5 and a molecular formula of C<sub>24</sub>H<sub>26</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>. It is freely soluble in dimethylsulfoxide; soluble in methylene chloride and methanol; sparingly soluble in 95% ethanol and isopropanol; slightly soluble in ethyl ether; and practically insoluble in water, gastric fluid (simulated, TS, pH 1.1), and intestinal fluid (simulated, TS without pancreatin, pH 7.5).

##### 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

###### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Carvedilol is a racemic mixture in which nonselective β-adrenoreceptor blocking activity is present in the S(-) enantiomer and α<sub>1</sub>-adrenoregic blocking activity is present in both R(+) and S(-) enantiomers at equal potency. Carvedilol has no intrinsic sympathomimetic activity.

###### 12.2 Pharmacodynamics

###### Left Ventricular Dysfunction Following Myocardial Infarction

The basis for the beneficial effects of carvedilol in patients with left ventricular dysfunction following an acute myocardial infarction is not established.

##### Hypertension

The mechanism by which β-blockade produces an antihypertensive effect has not been established.

β-adrenoreceptor blocking activity has been demonstrated in animal and human studies showing that carvedilol (1) reduces cardiac output in normal subjects; (2) reduces exercise- and/or isoproterenol-induced tachycardia; and (3) reduces reflex orthostatic tachycardia. Significant β-adrenoreceptor blocking effect is usually seen within 1 hour of drug administration. α<sub>1</sub>-adrenoreceptor blocking activity has been demonstrated in human and animal studies, showing that carvedilol (1) attenuates the pressor effects of phenylephrine; (2) causes vasodilation; and (3) reduces peripheral vascular resistance. These effects contribute to the reduction of blood pressure and usually are seen within 30 minutes of drug administration.

Due to the α<sub>1</sub>-receptor blocking activity of carvedilol, blood pressure is lowered more in the standing than in the supine position, and symptoms of postural hypotension (1.8%), including rare instances of syncope, can occur. Following oral administration, when postural hypotension has occurred, it has been transient and is uncommon when carvedilol is administered with food at the recommended starting dose and titration increments are closely followed *[see Dosage and Administration (2)]*.

In hypertensive patients with normal renal function, therapeutic doses of carvedilol decreased renal vascular resistance with no change in glomerular filtration rate or renal plasma flow. Changes in excretion of sodium, potassium, uric acid, and phosphorus in hypertensive patients with normal renal function were similar after carvedilol and placebo.

Carvedilol has little effect on plasma catecholamines, plasma aldosterone, or electrolyte levels, but it does significantly reduce plasma renin activity when given for at least 4 weeks. It also increases levels of atrial natriuretic peptide.

##### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Carvedilol is rapidly and extensively absorbed following oral administration, with absolute bioavailability of approximately 25% to 35% due to a significant degree of first-pass metabolism. Following oral administration, the apparent mean terminal elimination half-life of carvedilol generally ranges from 7 to 10 hours. Plasma concentrations achieved are proportional to the oral dose administered. When administered with food, the rate of absorption is slowed, as evidenced by a delay in the time to reach peak plasma levels, with no significant difference in extent of bioavailability. Taking carvedilol with food should minimize the risk of orthostatic hypotension. Carvedilol is extensively metabolized. Following oral administration of radiolabelled carvedilol to healthy volunteers, carvedilol accounted for only about 7% of the total radioactivity in plasma as measured by area under the curve (AUC). Less than 2% of the dose was excreted unchanged in the urine. Carvedilol is metabolized primarily by aromatic ring oxidation and glucuronidation. The oxidative metabolites are further metabolized by conjugation with glucuronidation and sulfation. The metabolites of carvedilol are excreted primarily via the bile into the feces. Demethylation and hydroxylation at the phenol ring produce 3 active metabolites with β-receptor blocking activity. Based on preclinical studies, the 4'-hydroxyphenyl metabolite is approximately 13 times more potent than carvedilol for β-blockade.

Compared to carvedilol, the 3 active metabolites exhibit weak vasodilating activity. Plasma concentrations of the active metabolites are about one-tenth of those observed for carvedilol and have pharmacokinetics similar to the parent.

Carvedilol undergoes stereoselective first-pass metabolism with plasma levels of R(+)-carvedilol approximately 2 to 3 times higher than S(-)-carvedilol following oral administration in healthy subjects. The mean apparent terminal elimination half-lives for R(+)- carvedilol range from 5 to 9 hours compared with 7 to 11 hours for the S(-)-enantiomer.

The primary P450 enzymes responsible for the metabolism of both R(+) and S(-)-carvedilol in human liver microsomes were CYP2D6 and CYP2C9 and to a lesser extent CYP3A4, 2C19, 1A2, and 2E1. CYP2D6 is thought to be the major enzyme in the 4'- and 5'-hydroxylation of carvedilol, with a potential contribution from 3A4. CYP2C9 is thought to be of primary importance in the O-methylation pathway of S(-)-carvedilol.

Carvedilol is subject to the effects of genetic polymorphism with poor metabolizers of debrisoquin (a marker for cytochrome P4502D6) exhibiting 2- to 3-fold higher plasma concentrations of R(+)-carvedilol compared to extensive metabolizers. In contrast, plasma levels of S(-)-carvedilol are increased only about 20% to 25% in poor metabolizers, indicating this enantiomer is metabolized to a lesser extent by cytochrome P450 2D6 than R(+)-carvedilol. The pharmacokinetics of carvedilol do not appear to be different in poor metabolizers of S-mephenytoin (patients deficient in cytochrome P450 2C19).

Carvedilol is more than 98% bound to plasma proteins, primarily with albumin. The plasma-protein binding is independent of concentration over the therapeutic range. Carvedilol is a basic, lipophilic compound with a steady-state volume of distribution of approximately 115 L, indicating substantial distribution into extravascular tissues. Plasma clearance ranges from 500 to 700 mL/min.

##### 12.4 Specific Populations

###### Geriatric

Plasma levels of carvedilol average about 50% higher in the elderly compared to young subjects.

###### Hepatic Impairment

Compared to healthy subjects, patients with severe liver impairment (cirrhosis) exhibit a 4- to 7-fold increase in carvedilol levels. Carvedilol is contraindicated in patients with severe liver impairment.

###### Renal Impairment

Although carvedilol is metabolized primarily by the liver, plasma concentrations of carvedilol have been reported to be increased in patients with renal impairment. Based on mean AUC data, approximately 40% to 50% higher plasma concentrations of carvedilol were observed in hypertensive patients with moderate to severe renal impairment compared to a control group of hypertensive patients with normal renal function. However, the ranges of AUC values were similar for both groups. Changes in mean peak plasma levels were less pronounced, approximately 12% to 26% higher in patients with impaired renal function.

Consistent with its high degree of plasma protein-binding, carvedilol does not appear to be cleared significantly by hemodialysis.

##### 12.5 Drug-Drug Interactions

Since carvedilol undergoes substantial oxidative metabolism, the metabolism and pharmacokinetics of carvedilol may be affected by induction or inhibition of cytochrome P450 enzymes.

###### Amiodarone

In a pharmacokinetic study conducted in 106 Japanese patients with heart failure, coadministration of a small loading and maintenance doses of amiodarone with carvedilol resulted in at least a 2-fold increase in the steady-state trough concentrations of S(-)-carvedilol *[see Drug Interactions (7.6)]*.

###### Cimetidine

In a pharmacokinetic study conducted in 10 healthy male subjects, cimetidine (1,000 mg/day) increased the steady-state AUC of carvedilol by 30% with no change in C<sub>max</sub> *[see Drug Interactions (7.5)]*.

###### Digoxin

Following concomitant administration of carvedilol (25 mg once daily) and digoxin (0.25 mg once daily) for 14 days, steady-state AUC and trough concentrations of digoxin were increased by 14% and 16%, respectively, in 12 hypertensive patients *[see Drug Interactions (7.4)]*.

###### Glyburide

In 12 healthy subjects, combined administration of carvedilol (25 mg once daily) and a single dose of glyburide did not result in a clinically relevant pharmacokinetic interaction for either compound.

###### Hydrochlorothiazide

A single oral dose of carvedilol 25 mg did not alter the pharmacokinetics of a single oral dose of hydrochlorothiazide 25 mg in 12 patients with hypertension. Likewise, hydrochlorothiazide had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of carvedilol.

###### Rifampin

In a pharmacokinetic study conducted in 8 healthy male subjects, rifampin (600 mg daily for 12 days) decreased the AUC and C<sub>max</sub> of carvedilol by about 70% *[see Drug Interactions (7.5)]*.

###### Torsemide

In a study of 12 healthy subjects, combined oral administration of carvedilol 25 mg once daily and torsemide 5 mg once daily for 5 days did not result in any significant differences in their pharmacokinetics compared with administration of the drugs alone.

###### Warfarin

Carvedilol (12.5 mg twice daily) did not have an effect on the steady-state prothrombin time ratios and did not alter the pharmacokinetics of R(+)- and S(-)-warfarin following concomitant administration with warfarin in 9 healthy volunteers.

##### 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

###### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

In 2-year studies conducted in rats given carvedilol at doses up to 75 mg/kg/day (12 times the MRHD when compared on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis) or in mice given up to 200 mg/kg/day (16 times the MRHD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis), carvedilol had no carcinogenic effect.

Carvedilol was negative when tested in a battery of genotoxicity assays, including the Ames and the CHO/HGPRT assays for mutagenicity and the in vitro hamster micronucleus and in vivo human lymphocyte cell tests for clastogenicity.

At doses ≥200 mg/kg/day (≥32 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>) carvedilol was toxic to adult rats (sedation, reduced weight gain) and was associated with a reduced number of successful matings, prolonged mating time, significantly fewer corpora lutea and implants per dam, and complete resorption of 18% of the litters. The no-observed-effect dose level for overt toxicity and impairment of fertility was 60 mg/kg/day (10 times the MRHD as mg/m<sup>2</sup>).

##### 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

###### 14.2 Left Ventricular Dysfunction Following Myocardial Infarction

CAPRICORN was a double-blind study comparing carvedilol and placebo in 1,959 patients with a recent myocardial infarction (within 21 days) and left ventricular ejection fraction of ≤40%, with (47%) or without symptoms of heart failure. Patients given carvedilol received 6.25 mg twice daily, titrated as tolerated to 25 mg twice daily. Patients had to have a systolic blood pressure >90 mm Hg, a sitting heart rate >60 beats/minute, and no contraindication to β-blocker use. Treatment of the index infarction included aspirin (85%), IV or oral β-blockers (37%), nitrates (73%), heparin (64%), thrombolytics (40%), and acute angioplasty (12%).

Background treatment included ACE inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers (97%), anticoagulants (20%), lipid-lowering agents (23%), and diuretics (34%). Baseline population characteristics included an average age of 63 years, 74% male, 95% Caucasian, mean blood pressure 121/74 mm Hg, 22% with diabetes, and 54% with a history of hypertension. Mean dosage achieved of carvedilol was 20 mg twice daily; mean duration of follow-up was 15 months.

All-cause mortality was 15% in the placebo group and 12% in the carvedilol group, indicating a 23% risk reduction in patients treated with carvedilol (95% CI 2-40%, p = 0.03), as shown in Figure 1. The effects on mortality in various subgroups are shown in Figure 2.

Nearly all deaths were cardiovascular (which were reduced by 25% by carvedilol), and most of these deaths were sudden or related to pump failure (both types of death were reduced by carvedilol). Another study end point, total mortality and all-cause hospitalization, did not show a significant improvement.

There was also a significant 40% reduction in fatal or non-fatal myocardial infarction observed in the group treated with carvedilol (95% CI 11% to 60%, p = 0.01). A similar reduction in the risk of myocardial infarction was also observed in a meta-analysis of placebo-controlled trials of carvedilol in heart failure.

Figure 1. Survival Analysis for CAPRICORN (intent-to-treat)

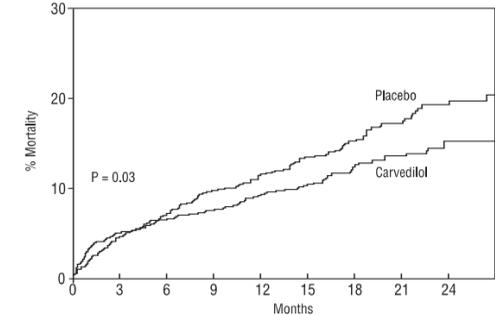
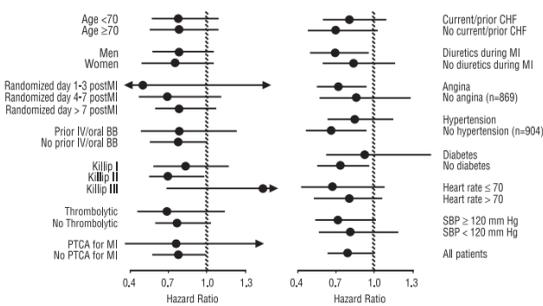


Figure 2. Effects on Mortality for Subgroups in CAPRICORN



##### 14.3 Hypertension

Carvedilol was studied in 2 placebo-controlled trials that utilized twice-daily dosing, at total daily doses of 12.5 to 50 mg. In these and other studies, the starting dose did not exceed 12.5 mg. At 50 mg/day, carvedilol reduced sitting trough (12-hour) blood pressure by about 9/5.5 mm Hg; at 25 mg/day the effect was about 7.5/3.5 mm Hg. Comparisons of trough to peak blood pressure showed a trough to peak ratio for blood pressure response of about 65%. Heart rate fell by about 7.5 beats/minute at 50 mg/day. In general, as is true for other β-blockers, responses were smaller in black than non-black patients. There were no age- or gender-related differences in response.

The peak antihypertensive effect occurred 1 to 2 hours after a dose. The dose-related blood pressure response was accompanied by a dose-related increase in adverse effects *[see Adverse Reactions (6)]*.

##### 14.4 Hypertension With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

In a double-blind study (GEMINI), carvedilol, added to an ACE inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker, was evaluated in a population with mild-to-moderate hypertension and well-controlled type 2 diabetes mellitus. The mean HbA<sub>1c</sub> at baseline was 7.2%. Carvedilol was titrated to a mean dose of 17.5 mg twice daily and maintained for 5 months. Carvedilol had no adverse effect on glycemic control, based on HbA<sub>1c</sub> measurements (mean change from baseline of 0.02%, 95% CI -0.06 to 0.10, p = NS) *[see Warnings and Precautions(5.6)]*.

##### 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Carvedilol tablets are available as follows:

3.125 mg- Each white, oval shaped, biconvex, film-coated tablet engraved with 254 on one side and plain on the other side contains 3.125 mg of carvedilol. Tablets are supplied as follows: NDC 43547-254-10 in bottles of 100 tablets NDC 43547-254-50 in bottles of 500 tablets NDC 43547-254-11 in bottles of 1000 tablets

6.25 mg- Each white, oval shaped, biconvex, film-coated tablet engraved with 255 on one side and plain on the other side contains 6.25 mg of carvedilol Tablets are supplied as follows: NDC 43547-255-10 in bottles of 100 tablets NDC 43547-255-50 in bottles of 500 tablets NDC43547-255-11 in bottles of 1000 tablets

12.5 mg- Each white, oval shaped, biconvex, film-coated tablet engraved with 256 on one side and plain on the other side, and contains 12.5 mg of