Verapamil tablets are used for:
- manage high blood pressure (hypertension), used alone or with other drugs for high blood pressure.
- manage and prevent certain types of abnormal heart beats.
- manage and prevent angina.
- treat and prevent certain types of abnormal heart beats.

What you need to know before you take Verapamil tablets
Do not take Verapamil tablets:
- if you are allergic to verapamil hydrochloride or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you have heart failure or severe problems with the impulses and rhythms of the heart (second or third degree atrioventricular block or sick sinus syndrome), unless you have a pacemaker.
- if you have heart failure and are taking beta blockers.
- if you have recently suffered a heart attack.
- if you suffer from a slow heart rate (bradycardia).
- if you have low blood pressure (hypotension).
- if you have Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome (rapid heart rate sometimes associated with dizziness or faintness).

Possible side effects
Verapamil may increase the amount of alcohol in the body and the time it takes for alcohol to leave the body. You should avoid excessive amounts of alcohol whilst taking Verapamil tablets.

Verapamil tablets and alcohol
Verapamil may increase the amount of alcohol in the body and the time it takes for alcohol to leave the body. You should avoid excessive amounts of alcohol whilst taking Verapamil tablets.

Other medicines and Verapamil tablets
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines:
- ivabradine (for heart disease)
- alpha or beta blockers (particularly important if having a beta blocker by injection) and other drugs to treat high blood pressure e.g. prazosin.
- simvastatin, atorvastatin (to lower cholesterol levels)
- erthyromycin, clarithromycin (to treat infections)
- theophylline (to treat asthma)
- rifampicin (to treat infections)
- cimetidine (to treat stomach ulcers)
- cimetidine (to treat high blood pressure e.g. prazosin)
- phenoxybenzamine, phenoxybenzamine (to treat hypertension)
- rifampicin (to treat infections)
- simvastatin, atorvastatin (to lower cholesterol levels)
- erthyromycin, clarithromycin (to treat infections)
- aspirin (for pain, fever or to prevent blood clots)
- dabigatran (medicine to prevent the formation of blood clots)
- quinidine (to treat arrhythmias)
- colchicine (for gout)
- immunosupressants such as ciclosporin, sirolimus, everolimus and tacrolimus (to prevent organ transplant rejection).
- dantrolene (to control muscle spasms)
- dantrolene (to control muscle spasms)
- if you are about to receive surgery where anaesthetic will be used (including dentistry).

Warnings and precautions
Verapamil tablets and Grapefruit juice
Do not eat or drink products containing grapefruit juice whilst taking verapamil, as grapefruit juice increases the effects of verapamil.
Pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines
Verapamil tablets may make you feel drowsy, particularly when you first start the treatment and when changing over from another medicine. Make sure you are not affected before you drive or operate machinery, especially if taken with alcohol.

Verapamil tablets contains sunset yellow aluminium lake (E110)
Sunset yellow aluminium lake (E110) may cause allergic reactions.

2 How to take Verapamil tablets
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

The recommended dose is:

- Adults
  - High blood pressure: Initially 120mg twice a day increasing to 160mg twice a day. In some cases up to a maximum of 480mg a day can be taken in divided doses.
  - Angina: Usually 120mg three times a day. For some patients 80mg three times a day may be sufficient.
  - Abnormal heart beats: 40-120mg three times a day.

- Elderly with heart or liver problems: you may be given a different dose.

Use in children and adolescents:
- Up to 2 years: 20mg two or three times a day.
- 2 years and over: 40-120mg two or three times a day.

Swallow the tablets with water.

If you take more Verapamil tablets than you should
If you (or someone else) swallow a lot of tablets at the same time, or you think a child may have swallowed any contact your nearest hospital casualty department or tell your doctor immediately.

Overdose can lead to low blood pressure and in rare cases heart failure.

If you forget to take Verapamil tablets
Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at the right time.

If you stop taking Verapamil tablets
Talk to your doctor before you stop taking the tablets and follow their advice.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4 Possible side effects
Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Contact your doctor at once if any of the following symptoms occur:
- allergic reaction: itching, rash, difficulty breathing and swelling of the face, lips or tongue
- palpitations, chest pains for the first time or chest pains becoming more frequent.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects:
- they get worse or you notice any other effects not listed:
  - Nervous system: headaches, dizziness, pins and needles, involuntary shaking or spasm
  - Eyes: spinning sensation, ‘ringing in the ears’
  - Heart/blood vessels: fast, slow or irregular heart beat, low blood pressure, flushing/reddening of the skin, swelling of the ankles, hands or feet
  - Stomach: constipation, feeling or being sick, pain or discomfort in the stomach, swelling of the gums
  - Skin: hair loss, skin rash or itching, discolouring, tingling or prickling feeling, blisters, ulcers, numbness
  - Muscles: weakness, aches, pains in the joints and/or muscles
  - Reproductive system: impotence, enlarged breasts in men (irreversible when treatment is stopped)

Other:
- tiredness, liver problems which can be detected by blood tests done by your doctor.

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk.yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in Google play or Apple App store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5 How to store Verapamil tablets
Keep out of the sight and reach of children.
Store below 25°C in a dry place.
Do not use this medicine after the expiry date stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6 Contents of the pack and other information
What Verapamil tablets contain
- The active substance is verapamil hydrochloride. Each tablet contains either 40mg, 80mg, 120mg or 160mg of verapamil hydrochloride.
- The other ingredients are croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, maize starch, propylene glycol, sunset yellow aluminium lake (E110), quinoline yellow aluminium lake (E104), titanium dioxide (E171), microcrystalline cellulose (E460), hydroxypropylcellulose (E463), methylhydroxypropylcellulose (E464) and purified talc (E553).

What Verapamil tablets look like and contents of the pack
Verapamil tablets are yellow, circular, biconvex, film-coated tablets.

Pack sizes are 28, 56 and 84.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer
Actavis, Barnstaple, EX32 8NS, UK.

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