


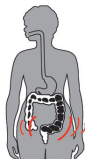






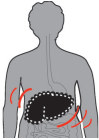







Active ingredients (generic names)	AMIODARONE (a-me-o-da-rone) 
What it is used for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heart attack with persistent VT or VF• Treat and prevent life-threatening abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias)
How it works	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps heart beat regularly by slowing nerve impulses in the heart, and making heart muscle fibres less responsive to abnormal nerve impulses 
Side effects	<div><p>Nausea and vomiting</p></div> <div><p>Constipation</p></div> <div><p>Trouble sleeping</p></div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lung (breathing) problems• Loss of appetite• Metallic taste• Disturbs functioning of thyroid gland (see Anatomy dictionary)• Blue-grey skin colouring may be seen on lighter skinned patients <p>Note: Amiodarone takes a long time to be removed from body so side effects take a while to go away after stopping.</p>

 <p>Warnings</p>	<div>    </div> <div>   </div> <p>Pregnant Breastfeeding Old people</p> <p>Breathing trouble Liver trouble</p> <p>Interactions — Do not use together without medical consult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amiodarone interacts with a lot of different medicines — always check with doctor or pharmacist before adding another medicine
<p>Tell the patient</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not drink grapefruit juice — can increase amount of medicine in your blood stream and your chance of getting side effects <div>   </div> <p>Keep out of the sun Return to clinic if you get shortness of breath, dry cough, eye problems, weight loss, muscle weakness, OR heart problems get worse</p> <p>Warning stickers (page 310): 5, 8, 18</p>
<p>Check</p>	<div>   </div> <p>Blood test – check FBC, thyroid function (TFT), liver function tests (LFT), potassium level before starting treatment and then every 6 months</p> <p>Do chest x-ray and ECG before starting and then every year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lung function before starting, then every 6–12 months Vision every year