

## Atenolol

### (Atenolol\*, Tenormin\*) POM

- **Client Information Leaflet:** [Atenolol](#)
- **Formulations**

Oral: 25 mg, 50 mg, 100 mg tablets; 5 mg/ml sugar-free syrup. Injectable: 0.5 mg/ml. Special reformulations available: 6.25 mg tablets. **VSP**

- **Action**

Cardioselective beta-adrenergic blocker. It is relatively specific for beta-1 adrenergic receptors but can antagonize beta-2 receptors at high doses. Blocks the chronotropic and inotropic effects of beta-1 adrenergic stimulation on the heart, thereby reducing myocardial oxygen demand. Bronchoconstrictor, vasodilatory and hypoglycaemic effects are less marked due to its cardioselective nature.

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- **Use**
  - Treatment of cardiac tachyarrhythmias (including those associated with feline hyperthyroidism).
  - Treatment of hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (cats) or obstructive cardiac disease (severe aortic or pulmonic stenosis).
  - Treatment of systemic hypertension.
  - Can be used following introduction of alpha blockade in management of phaeochromocytoma.

It is recommended to withdraw therapy gradually in patients who have been receiving the drug chronically.

- **DOSES**

- **Dogs** 0.2–2 mg/kg p.o. q12h; a lower dose is often used initially with gradual titration upwards if necessary.
- **Cats** 6.25–12.5 mg/cat p.o. q12–24h; a lower dose is often used initially with gradual titration upwards if necessary. If using the oral liquid, doses of 0.2–2 mg/kg p.o. q12h can be used, with gradual titration upwards as necessary.