FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Using metoprolol safely

beta blocker · tartrate (Lopressor) & succinate ER (Toprol-XL)

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. **Stopping it on your own**
   Can worsen chest pain or cause a heart attack. Taper with your doctor.
2. **Taking it the wrong way for your form**
   Tartrate: with meals. Succinate ER: once a day, not crushed.
3. **Not sharing your full medicine list**
   Clonidine and several other medicines can interact.

How to take it

- **Metoprolol tartrate** (immediate-release): with or right after a meal, at the same times every day.
- **Metoprolol succinate extended-release:** once a day, swallowed whole or split along its score. Never crush or chew it.
- Don't switch between the two forms on your own. Take the exact product your prescriber ordered.
- Missed dose: take only your next scheduled dose. Don't double up.

Stopping it

IMPORTANT
Don't stop suddenly. It can worsen chest pain or cause a heart attack, even if you take it only for blood pressure. Your prescriber will lower the dose slowly, usually over 1-2 weeks.

- Call your doctor right away if chest pain gets worse after a dose change.

Share your full medicine list

- Tell your doctor about asthma, diabetes, and all your heart medicines.
- **Clonidine:** your prescriber will stop metoprolol several days before clonidine is withdrawn, to avoid a sharp rise in blood pressure.
- **Fluoxetine, paroxetine, quinidine, propafenone** can raise metoprolol levels.
- Metoprolol can hide the warning signs of low blood sugar.

Watch for

- Unusual dizziness, tiredness, or a very slow heartbeat. Sudden weight gain or worse breathing if you have heart failure.
- Tell any doctor or dentist that you take metoprolol before surgery.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information for TOPROL-XL (rev. 3/2026) and metoprolol tartrate tablets (rev. 9/2026). TOPROL-XL and LOPRESSOR are trademarks of their owners.

Scan for the full guide