

TRENTAL (pentoxifylline)

Trental is a medication taken internally that can help improve blood flow through blood vessels. It works by increasing delivery of blood and oxygen to areas in the body that may lack proper circulation due to damage or disease of the blood vessels. It is particularly indicated for individuals whose lower limbs are affected, where it may help reduce leg pain and cramping when walking. The usual dose includes taking one extended-release tablet three times a day with meals, and treatment should last at least eight weeks.

Although Trental has generally been found to be well tolerated, some people may experience symptoms such as bloating, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, or headache. Rarely the medication might cause chest pain or an irregular heartbeat. If you have kidney or liver disease, the chance of side effects from the medication may be higher. If notable side effects do develop, a lower dosage might still be useful.

Trental may not be suitable for people who have had recent bleeding in the brain or retina. Individuals at higher risk for bleeding (for example, those having had recent surgery or a peptic ulcer) who take the medication need to be closely monitored. Trental should not be used in those who have had previous problems using the drug or substances called xanthines, such as caffeine. Trental may interact with other drugs that affect bleeding, such as Warfarin (Coumadin), and in such cases requires more frequent lab testing to ensure safety.

Use of the drug during pregnancy or childhood has not been well studied in humans. You should understand that there could be an effect on the fetus if you are pregnant or become pregnant while on this medication. Nursing mothers should avoid use of Trental.

If you have any other questions regarding this medication, please ask before you leave the office.