



## Orthostatic Hypotension

### Oar Hippo-BP

Prazosin's blockade of adrenergic receptors affects the body's ability to vasoconstrict and maintain blood pressure. This medication may cause orthostatic hypotension. Instruct the patient to move slowly from a supine position to an upright position. Inform the patient to sit or lie down if experiencing dizziness or lightheadedness.

## Tachycardia

### Tac-heart-card

By causing the adrenergic receptors to widen blood vessels, Prazosin decreases vascular resistance and lowers the heart's effort to effectively pump blood throughout the body. The decrease in blood pressure triggers the body to overcompensate by increasing the heart rate.

## Priapism / Inhibition of Ejaculation

### Pitching-a-tent

Prazosin blocks adrenergic receptors in the prostate, causing relaxed blood vessels and increased blood flow. This blood flow can cause a painful, lasting erection - a condition known as priapism.

## Nasal Congestion

### Stuffed Nose

Prazosin affects the adrenergic receptors in the nasal mucosa and causes vasodilation of the nasal arterioles. Inform the patient that this drug may cause nasal congestion.

## Considerations

### First Dose Effect

#### First-place-ribbon Dose

Profound orthostatic hypotension may occur with initial prazosin administration. A small percentage of patients may lose consciousness within 60 minutes of taking the medication. To minimize the first dose effect, the initial dose should be 1 mg or less and administered at bedtime.

### Administer at Bedtime

#### Take in Bed

Since this medication blocks alpha-1-adrenergic receptors and affects the body's ability to vasoconstrict, administer prazosin at bedtime to minimize the high risk of orthostatic hypotension and syncope.