Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors

Information for patients

Read this medicine fact sheet to learn about:

• What this medicine is
• Why you need to take it
• What side effects to watch for

What is the name of my medicine?
Angiotensin (pronounced An – gio – ten – sin) Converting Enzyme Inhibitors or ACE Inhibitors.

Other names for this medicine:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic Name</th>
<th>Brand Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benazepril</td>
<td>Lotensin, generics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captopril</td>
<td>Capoten, generics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cilazapril</td>
<td>Inhibace, generics</td>
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<td>Enalapril</td>
<td>Vasotec, generics</td>
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<td>Fosinopril</td>
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<td>Lisinopril</td>
<td>Prinivil, Zestril, generics</td>
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<td>Perindopril</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quinapril</td>
<td>Accupril, generics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramipril</td>
<td>Altace, generics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trandolapril</td>
<td>Mavik</td>
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</table>
Why do I need to take this medicine?

• To lower blood pressure. This medicine helps relax your blood vessels, letting blood flow more easily.

• To help heal a weakened heart and improve how well it works (after a heart attack or for people with heart failure).

• To protect your kidneys if you have diabetes.

Talk to your doctor if you are not sure why you are taking this medicine.

What do I need to know when taking this medicine?

• Take each dose at the same time each day, and don't miss any doses. This medicine works best when there is a constant amount in your blood.

• You can take this medicine with or without food.

• If you need to take this medicine for a long time, you will need to visit your doctor and have blood tests. This will allow your doctor to check how the medicine is affecting your body. Go to all of your doctor and lab appointments.

• Tell your doctor if you develop kidney problems. They may need to change your medicine.

• Check with your doctor before taking potassium supplements. You may need extra blood tests to measure the amount of potassium in your blood.

• This medicine can make you feel dizzy. To avoid feeling dizzy, stand up slowly if you have been sitting or lying down. Drinking alcohol can make dizziness worse. Do not drive a car or use heavy machines if this medicine makes you feel dizzy.

• Talk to your doctor about using a different medicine if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. This medicine may harm your baby if you take it during pregnancy. Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or chestfeeding.
Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicine. This includes:

- medicines prescribed by a doctor or bought in a pharmacy (especially “water pills” or lithium therapy)
- vitamins or herbal remedies
- supplements and salt substitutes that may contain potassium

What are the side effects of this medicine?

- feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- changes in your taste (you may have a metallic taste in your mouth; can happen more often with captopril)
- a rash (more common if you take captopril)
- can increase the amount of potassium in your body
- can affect how well your kidneys work
- a dry cough (can occur within hours of the first dose or weeks to months on therapy)

Some side effects may go away as your body gets used to the medicine.

Call your doctor right away if you:

- have very bad dizziness (especially if vomiting or having diarrhea)
- are not going pee as often
- have a dry cough that doesn’t go away after a few days
- have difficulty breathing or swallowing
- notice swelling in your face, eyes, lips, tongue, arms or legs
- have a rash
- have muscle aches, a fever, or a sore throat
What should I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you remember.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time.

Who do I talk to if I have a problem or question?

This fact sheet does not cover all of the side effects that may happen. If you are concerned about any side effects, please ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information or advice.

If you are not sure what to do when taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.