

Ace Inhibitors

(Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme)

Generic	Brand
Benazepril	Lotensin
Captopril	Capoten
Enalapril	Vasotec
Fosinopril	Monopril
Lisinopril	Prinivil, Zestril
Moexipril	Univasc
Quinapril	Accupril
Ramipril	Altace
Trandolapril	Mavik

*Do not
stop taking
this medicine
unless told
to do so
by your
doctor.*

About this Medicine

ACE inhibitors are used to treat both high blood pressure (hypertension) and heart failure (HF). They block an enzyme that causes blood vessels to constrict. This allows the blood vessels to relax and dilate. Untreated, high blood pressure can damage to your heart, kidneys and may lead to stroke or heart failure. In HF, using an ACE inhibitor can:

- Protect your heart from further injury
- Improve your health
- Reduce your symptoms
- Can prevent heart failure.

Generic forms of ACE Inhibitors (benazepril, captopril, enalapril, fosinopril, and lisinopril) may be purchased at a lower price. There are no “generics” for Accupril, Altace Mavik, and of Univasc. Thus their prices are higher. Ask your doctor if one of the generic ACE Inhibitors would work for you.

How to Take

Use this drug as directed by your doctor. It is best to take these drugs, especially captopril, on an empty stomach one hour before or two hours after meals (unless otherwise instructed by your doctor).

Side Effects

Along with needed effects, a drug may cause some unwanted effects. Many people will not have any side effects. Most of these side effects are mild and short-lived.

Check with your doctor if any of the following side effects occur:

- Fever and chills
- Hoarseness
- Swelling of face, mouth, hands or feet or any trouble in swallowing or breathing
- Dizziness or lightheadedness (often a problem with the first dose)

Report these side effects if they persist:

- Cough – dry or continuing
- Loss of taste, diarrhea, nausea, headache or unusual fatigue
- Fast or irregular heartbeat, dizziness, lightheadedness
- Skin rash

Special Guidelines

- Sodium in the diet may cause you to retain fluid and increase your blood pressure. Therefore, low sodium diets are often prescribed along with the use of this medicine.
- Do not use salt substitutes without first talking with your doctor. Many contain potassium and, when taken with an ACE inhibitor, result in high levels of potassium in the blood.
- Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine unless told to do so by your doctor.
- Do not take any other medicines (prescription or over-the-counter) without first checking with your doctor.
- Consult your doctor about use of this medicine during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.
- Store this medicine in a tight container away from heat and moisture. Keep this and all medicines out of the reach of children.

*Developed by:
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