



*Better
Together*

Patient information

Ace Inhibitors

Pharmacy and Cardiology Directorate

‘ACE inhibitors’ is the name given to a group of medicines.

Your ACE inhibitor is called:

.....

Why has my doctor given me an ACE inhibitor and what are the benefits?

ACE inhibitors are used to treat high blood pressure and heart failure. They can be used after a heart attack. They can reduce the risk of further heart disease and are also prescribed for some people who have diabetes and kidney problems.

Check with your doctor if you are still not sure why you need an ACE inhibitor.

How do they work?

These drugs make the blood vessels relax, reducing blood pressure and the work the heart has to do. They stop a substance called ACE (Anigiotensin Converting Enzyme) from working.

How should I take my ACE inhibitor?

The dose you need to take depends on which drug you are taking and your symptoms. Sometimes, you will be given a small dose first (usually at night) and then the dose will be gradually increased. Always follow the instructions on the label.

Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, do not take the one you missed. Take the next dose at the usual time. Do not double the next dose.

What are the risks of taking an ACE inhibitor?

There are risks and benefits of taking all medicines however your doctor will discuss why there are more benefits than risks for you taking an ACE inhibitor. There are some side effects to all medicines.

What are the side effects of ACE inhibitors?

All drugs have side effects. Not everybody will experience side effects.

Some people may experience:

- a loss of taste
- a dry cough
- dizziness or headaches.

If you notice any of these problems, discuss them with your doctor.

If you experience any of the following effects, stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor immediately.

These side effects are rare.

- Skin rashes.
- Swollen face or mouth.

From time to time a blood test will be taken (especially if you are also taking water tablets) to check your kidney function as occasionally it can be affected. This blood test will usually take place before and after starting the medication or after a dose increase, and then at regular intervals at least once a year. It is important that you attend for this test when requested.

Can I take other medicines while taking ACE inhibitors?

Some other medicines may affect how ACE inhibitors work. It is important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist before you take any other medicines, including ones that you buy.

Reduce the amount of salt you use, try to only use a small amount in cooking and at the table.

ACE inhibitors can sometimes keep too much of a substance called potassium in your body. Avoid salt substitutes, such as lo-salt and ruthmol and avoid preparations which may contain potassium, e.g. cystitis preparations, your potassium level will be checked by blood tests.

Are there any alternative treatments available?

There are other medicines available to treat high blood pressure however if your doctor has prescribed this it may be the most appropriate medicine.

ACE inhibitors are recommended in the National Guidelines (NICE) for the treatment of heart failure and ischaemic heart disease however if you have any side effects, there may be an alternative your doctor can prescribe.

What will happen if I decide not to have the treatment?

If you decide not to take the medicine you will not get any of the benefits. You must discuss this with your doctor as they need to know if you are not taking it and may prescribe an alternative for you.

This leaflet is not a substitute for any advice that your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may give you.

You can get more detailed information from the manufacturer's information leaflet.

Further information

Further information on this medicine is available from the Medicines Information Department of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital
Telephone number: 0151 706 2096
Text phone number: 18001 0151 2096

NHS website www.nhs.uk

NHS Direct:

For free advice and information on any health matter 24 hours a day, seven days a week, please
Tel: 0845 4647

Author: Pharmacy and Cardiology Directorate

Review Date: December 2016

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعة الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونيا.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانیاری بیوفندیدار بهو نمخوشانهی له‌لایمن تراستهوه پامسند کراون، نهگمر داوا بکریت له فورماتکاتی تردا بریتی له زمانهکاتی تر، نیز ی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گهوره، شریتی دهنگ، هیلی موون و نملیکتر و نیککی هیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音频、盲文、穆恩体 (Moon) 盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.