

Quinapril

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Generic Name: Quinapril HCl

Classification: Antihypertensive (ACE inhibitor) - Available by prescription only

Used to treat:

- High Blood Pressure
- Congestive Heart Failure

(These are common indications for this medication. There may be additional conditions not listed here. Check with your doctor if you have questions about your specific condition).

{mospagebreak title=Directions}

General Directions for Taking Medication:

- Take only as directed. Take medicine daily, even if you begin to feel better.
- DO NOT stop taking the medicine abruptly. This may worsen some conditions.
- You may take this medicine with or without meals.
- If you miss a dose, take the medicine as soon as you remember. If it is time for your next dose, take only 1 dose. DO NOT double up the doses.
- Since this medicine may cause hypotension (low blood pressure), change positions slowly.
- Learn how to monitor your blood pressure at home and keep a diary for your doctor.
- Talk to your doctor about exercise, tips to stop smoking and less salt in your diet.
- Keep enough medication on hand especially during holidays, weekends and vacations.
- Talk to your doctor about the need to wear a medical alert pendant or bracelet. There are many products that provide information to health care providers about your medicines and specific condition in case of an emergency.
- See your doctor regularly to monitor the effectiveness of this medication with routine lab tests, blood pressure screenings, and a physical exam.

{mospagebreak title=Contraindications}

Contraindications:

- Allergies - Hypersensitivity to this medication or its components

- Use with caution in:
- Pregnancy and Breast Feeding - May not be safe for your baby. Talk to your doctor about risks and benefits
- Elderly patients
- Patients with kidney, liver or heart disease; electrolyte disorders; or circulatory disorders of the brain
- Patients currently taking diuretics (water pills)

{mospagebreak title=Side Effects}

Common Side Effects:

- May occur during the first few days after beginning therapy, but usually resolve:
- The most common is a persistent, dry cough.
- Others may include low blood pressure, dizziness, headaches, loss of taste or bad taste in mouth, loss of appetite, diarrhea, constipation, nausea, or fatigue

Serious Side Effects:

- Notify your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:
- Tingling or swelling of the hands or feet; jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes); fever, sore throat or hoarseness; mouth sores; or dizziness
- Allergic reaction symptoms such as a red skin rash; itching; swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and throat; wheezing; chest pain; and difficulty breathing

{mospagebreak title=Interactions}

Interactions:

- Drug - There are many medications, both over-the-counter and prescription, which will alter the action of this medication. Some include antacids, other antihypertensives, potassium supplements, diuretics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications, Lithium, Digoxin, gout medication, antibiotics, anti-arthritis medications (Capsacin), decongestants, and anti-tuberculosis agents.
- It is extremely important that you consult with your doctor about dosing schedules if you take a variety of medications along with this medication. DO NOT take any new medication without talking with your doctor first.
- Food - May decrease absorption of this medication.

Warnings:

- Overdose - Can lead to severe hypotension.
- Avoid exercising in hot climates; it increases the dizziness.

- DO NOT drive or operate machinery until you can determine the extent of drowsiness or dizziness. Your doctor may be able to adjust your dose to help control side effects.
- Avoid stimulants such as decongestants or caffeine containing drinks (soft drinks, coffee, or tea). May increase your heart rate.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages due to hypotensive side effects.
- Keep this medication and all others out of reach of children and pets.

General Dosage Information:

Dosing is individually based. Talk to your doctor about your specific dosing schedule:

Storage:

- Keep at room temperature.
- Protect from sunlight and moisture.
- DO NOT store in the bathroom.