

Accupril®

Generic Name: Quinapril

Fact Sheet

USE

To treat high blood pressure (hypertension) and congestive heart failure. It also helps prevent complications from high blood pressure, such as strokes and heart attacks.

Accupril® belongs to a family of medications called ACE inhibitors, which relax blood vessels and cause them to widen. Accupril® can be used with diuretics (water pills) when one medication alone is insufficient to control blood pressure satisfactorily.

DOSAGE

Accupril® is available in 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg, and 40 mg tablets. Always take the dosage recommended by your doctor in the manner prescribed, and do not change the way you use this medication without consulting a physician.

Accupril® may be taken orally in a single daily dose, or in two divided doses. It is best taken on an empty stomach or with a light meal.

Use this medication on a regular schedule at the same time each day. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose – do not double up.

It may take 1 to 2 weeks before you experience the full benefit of this drug for high blood pressure. Continue to take Accupril® even if you feel well.

DO NOT TAKE ACCUPRIL IF

Allergy: Do not take Accupril® if you are allergic to quinapril or any of the ingredients of the medication, or if you have had angiodema after taking any other ACE inhibitors (such as captopril or ramipril). Angiodema is an allergic reaction which causes the area around the throat and tongue to swell.

Pregnancy: Do not use Accupril® if you are pregnant, may become pregnant, or are planning pregnancy. This drug can cause serious harm to an unborn baby. For more information, please consult with your physician.

WARNINGS/PRECAUTIONS

Children: The safety and effectiveness of Accupril® has not been well tested on children. Therefore, this medication is not recommended for this age group.

Breast Milk: It is unknown whether Accupril® passes into breast milk. In general, it is recommended to stop breast-feeding while using this medication. Please consult with your doctor.

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SIDE EFFECTS

Your doctor has prescribed Accupril® because s/he deems the benefits to outweigh any possible side effects. However, Accupril® does not affect everyone the same way. If you have any concerns about possible side effects, consult with your physician. Note that some side effects may disappear after your body becomes accustomed to the medication.

The most common side effects include a dry, persistent cough and headache. Less common side effects include diarrhea, loss of taste, nausea, and unusual fatigue.

Contact your doctor as soon as possible if you experience the following *uncommon* side effects: signs of low blood pressure (dizziness, lightheadedness, decreased sexual ability or fainting); possible signs of an allergic reaction (skin rash, itching, dizziness, or trouble breathing); or joint, chest or abdominal pain.

Get medical help immediately if you experience the following *rare* side effects: signs of an infection (fever, nausea, chills and/or vomiting); possible signs of serious liver problems (a change in the amount or color of urine, yellow eyes or skin, extreme fatigue); or possible signs of a serious allergic reaction called angiodema (swelling of the mouth, lips, throat, or tongue which causes sudden difficulty breathing or swallowing). In these cases, discontinue use and seek immediate medical attention.

Accupril® may also raise potassium levels in the body. Indications of too much potassium include confusion, an irregular heartbeat, nervousness, numbness or tingling in the extremities, weakness, and/or shortness of breath.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Antibiotics. Accupril® contains magnesium, which can affect the absorption and effectiveness of some antibiotics, such as tetracyclines and quinolone antibiotics (e.g., ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin).
- Drugs that affect blood pressure or otherwise affect the heart (e.g., digoxin and over-the-counter products that may increase heart rate or blood pressure).
- Potassium supplements. Since Accupril® can raise potassium levels, taking potassium supplements or salt substitutes with potassium may increase your body's potassium levels to a dangerous degree.
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (NSAIDs, such as indomethacin or ibuprofen).
- Lithium; drugs that suppress the immune system; injections for bee/wasp sting allergy.

Not everyone will experience interactions between drugs in the same way. An interaction does not always mean you must stop taking one drug; interactions are also possible with drugs and substances not listed above. Always disclose to your doctor any prescription, over-the-counter, or herbal medications you take, including nicotine, alcohol, and caffeine.

Your doctor can sometimes manage or even intend certain interactions. Speak to your physician or pharmacist if you are taking any of the medicines or substances listed above or if you have any questions.