

Patient information

ACE Inhibitors

The information in this leaflet is intended for general guidance. If your doctor has given you different advice, follow their instructions.

Your GP may give you the same tablets known by a different name — the brand name. You should always check with your GP or pharmacist if you are unsure.

Examples

Lisinopril

Perindopril

Ramipril

Trade names

Carace or Zestril

Coversyl

Tritace

What are ACE Inhibitors used for?

ACE Inhibitors are primarily used to treat patients for heart failure (reduced pumping efficiency of the heart). They are also used in patients who have suffered a heart attack and treat high blood pressure.

How do they work?

ACE stands for angiotensin converting enzyme. Angiotensin II is a chemical which is produced naturally in the body and has a powerful vasoconstriction (narrowing) effect on the blood vessels. ACE inhibitors block the production of Angiotensin II, which prevents vasoconstriction.

This helps to lower the blood pressure and improve the circulation to your heart muscle. ACE inhibitors overall effect will improve the heart's pumping action and efficiency helping to reduce the symptoms of heart failure.

Possible side effects

- Dizziness (especially at first)
- Loss of taste
- Dry cough (worse at night)
- Rash

What if I miss a dose?

If you forget to take your tablet you should NOT take double the dose. Take your usual dose the next day.

General points

- When you first take this drug it may cause a drop in blood pressure.
- Your GP may require a blood sample from you to monitor your kidney function.

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<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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