

Patient information

Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists

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	Trade Names
Candesartan	Amias
Irbesartan	Aprovel
Losartan	Cozaar
Valsartan	Diovan

What are Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonists used for?

These drugs are used to treat patients with a high blood pressure and are especially useful in those patients who have heart failure (reduced pumping efficiency of the heart) or in those patients who have suffered a heart attack.

How do they work?

Angiotensin II is a chemical which is produced naturally in the body and has a powerful vasoconstriction (narrowing) effect on the blood vessels thus increasing blood pressure. This group of drugs blocks the effects of Angiotensin II, preventing some blood vessels from over constricting allowing the blood to flow easily. This reduces the force the heart has to generate to pump the blood around the body.

Possible side effects

- Dizziness (especially at first)

- Loss of taste
- Rash
- Nausea and or vomiting
- Fatigue

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. It is therefore advisable to take it just before going to bed.
- Your GP may require a blood sample from you to monitor your kidney function.

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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