

Amlodipine

Names The generic drug name is amlodipine (am loe' di peen). Brand names include Norvasc® and Katerzia®. Amlodipine may be used in combination medications such as Caduet®. There may be other names for this medication.

What is it Used For? Amlodipine is used alone or in combination with other medications to treat high blood pressure and chest pain (angina), and coronary artery disease.

How is it Administered? Amlodipine comes as a tablet or liquid suspension to take by mouth. (Shake the suspension well before each use to mix the medication evenly.) It is usually taken once a day. Take it around the same time every day.

How Does it Work? Amlodipine is in a class of medications called calcium channel blockers. Calcium channel blockers stop calcium from going into the muscle cells of the heart and arteries (blood vessels that carry blood towards the heart). This relaxes and opens up the blood vessels, blood flows more easily, and blood pressure is lowered.

What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Amlodipine? Tell your doctor if you:

- have had an allergic reaction to amlodipine or any other medications, foods, or dyes.
- are pregnant or breastfeeding
- have heart failure or liver or heart disease

This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements you take.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- dizziness or lightheadedness
- drowsiness, excessive tiredness
- flushing (feeling of warmth)
- headache
- stomach pain, upset stomach, nausea

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea or headache.

When Should I
Call the
Doctor?

Let your doctor know immediately if you have:

- chest pains
- rapid, pounding, or irregular heartbeat
- fainting

What Else
Should I Know
About
Amlodipine?

- If your doctor prescribes a low-salt or low-sodium diet, follow the directions carefully.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.
- It is very important that you *take your medicine exactly as directed* and that you keep your appointments with your doctor even if you feel well. Do not take more or less than your doctor prescribes.
- Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom).
- If you would like more information about amlodipine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.