

Amlodipine 5mg Tablets

Uses

Amlodipine is a calcium channel blocker used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). If you have high blood pressure, taking amlodipine can help to prevent future heart disease, heart attacks and strokes.

It is also used to prevent chest pain caused by heart disease (angina).

Amlodipine helps high blood pressure by relaxing and widening blood vessels. This lowers your blood pressure and makes it easier for your heart to pump blood around your body.

With angina, you usually get chest pain because the arteries going to the heart have become hardened and narrowed. Amlodipine helps by improving the blood and oxygen supply to your heart.

Dose and method of administration

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. The recommended dose is one Amlodipine 5 mg Tablet once daily. The dose can be increased to one Amlodipine 10 mg Tablet once daily. This medicine can be used before or after food and drinks. You should take this medicine at the same time each day with a drink of water. Do not take Amlodipine with grapefruit juice.

Use in children and adolescents For children and adolescents (6 -17 years old), the recommended usual starting dose is 2.5 mg a day. The maximum recommended dose is 5mg a day. The 2.5mg dose can be obtained with Amlodipine 5 mg Tablets as these tablets can be divided into two equal doses. Amlodipine 10mg tablets can also be divided into equal doses. It is important to keep taking the tablets. Do not wait until your tablets are finished before seeing your doctor

Contraindications

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Amlodipine. You should inform your doctor if you have or have had any of the following conditions:

- Recent heart attack
- Heart failure
- Severe increase in blood pressure (Hypertensive crisis)
- Liver disease
- You are elderly and your dose needs to be increased.

Interactions

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. Amlodipine may affect or be affected by other medicines, such as:

- ketoconazole, itraconazole (anti-fungal medicines)
- ritonavir, indinavir, nelfinavir (so called protease-inhibitors used to treat HIV)
- rifampicin, erythromycin, clarithromycin (for infections caused by bacteria)
- hypericum perforatum (St. John's Wort)
- verapamil, diltiazem (heart medicines)
- dantrolene (infusion for severe body temperature abnormalities)
- tacrolimus (used to control your body's immune response, enabling your body to accept the transplanted organ)
- simvastatin (cholesterol lowering medicine)
- cyclosporine (an immunosuppressant)

Amlodipine may lower your blood pressure even more if you are already taking other medicines to treat your high blood pressure.

Undesirable side effects

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

Chest pain, Abnormal heart beat

Pregnancy and lactation

The safety of amlodipine in human pregnancy has not been established.

If you think you might be pregnant, or are planning to get pregnant, you must tell your doctor before you take Amlodipine.

How to store

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children. Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package in order to protect from light and moisture. Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the outer packaging. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Do not use this medicine if you notice any signs of discolouration or deterioration of the tablets. Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.