

Amlodipine

Generic name: amlodipine [*am-LOE-di-peen*]

Brand names: Katerzia, Norliqva, Norvasc

Dosage forms: oral tablet 5 mg, 10mg, 2.5 mg, oral liquid 1 mg/mL, oral suspension 1 mg/mL

Drug class: Calcium channel blockers

Medically reviewed by Melisa Puckey, BPharm. Last updated on Oct 29, 2023.

What is amlodipine?

Amlodipine besylate belongs to a class of medications called calcium channel blockers. It lowers blood pressure by relaxing the blood vessels so the heart does not have to pump as hard.

Amlodipine is used to treat certain types of angina (chest pain) and other conditions caused by coronary artery disease (narrowing of the blood vessels that supply blood to the heart).

Amlodipine besylate controls chest pain by increasing the supply of blood to the heart. If taken regularly, this medicine controls chest pain, but it does not stop chest pain once it starts. Your doctor may prescribe a different medication to take when you have chest pain.

Amlodipine is also used alone or in combination with other medicines to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) in adults and children at least 6 years old. Lowering blood pressure may lower your risk of a stroke or heart attack.

Amlodipine besylate is available as:

- Amlodipine 5 mg tablets (Norvasc)
- Amlodipine 10 mg tablets (Norvasc)
- Amlodipine 2.5 mg tablets (Norvasc)
- Amlodipine 1 mg/mL solution (Norliqva)
- Amlodipine 1 mg/mL oral suspension (Katerzia)

Amlodipine side effects

Common amlodipine side effects

The most common amlodipine side may include:

- dizziness, drowsiness;

- swelling of your legs or ankles;
- irregular heartbeat;
- pounding heartbeats or fluttering in your chest;
- muscle stiffness;
- uncontrolled muscle movements;
- feeling tired;
- stomach pain, nausea; or
- flushing (sudden warmth, redness, or tingly feeling).

Amlodipine besylate may cause serious side effects


Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to amlodipine**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

In rare cases, when you first start taking this medicine, your chest pain may get worse or you could have a heart attack. **Seek emergency medical attention or call your doctor right away if you have symptoms such as:** chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, nausea, sweating.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- worsening chest pain; or
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 Amlodipine side effects (more detail)

Warnings

Before taking amlodipine besylate, tell your doctor if you have congestive heart failure or liver disease.

Drinking alcohol can further lower your blood pressure and may increase certain side effects of amlodipine.

If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using amlodipine even if you feel well. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. You may need to use blood pressure medication for the rest

of your life.

Amlodipine is only part of a complete program of treatment that may also include diet, exercise, weight control, and other medications. Follow your diet, medication, and exercise routines very closely.

Tell your doctor about all other heart or blood pressure medications you are taking.

Your chest pain may become worse when you first start taking amlodipine or when your dose is increased. Call your doctor if your chest pain is severe or ongoing.

Before taking this medicine

You should not take amlodipine if you are allergic to it.

To make sure this medicine is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- severe narrowing of a certain valve in your heart (aortic stenosis), or other heart problems;
- coronary artery disease (clogged arteries); or
- liver disease.

It is not known if amlodipine will harm an unborn baby. However, having high blood pressure during pregnancy may cause complications or medical problems in both mother and baby. The benefit of treating hypertension may outweigh any risks to the baby.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.

 Amlodipine pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings (more detail)

How should I take amlodipine?

Take amlodipine exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose.

Amlodipine is usually taken once per day.

Take the medicine at the same time each day, with or without food.

Shake the **oral suspension** (liquid). Measure a dose with the supplied measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often.

If you have high blood pressure, keep using amlodipine even if you feel well. High blood pressure often has no symptoms.

Do not change your doses or stop taking any of your medications without your doctor's advice.

Your treatment may also include diet, exercise, weight control, and blood tests.

Store amlodipine **tablets** and **oral solution** (liquid) at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

Store amlodipine **oral suspension** in the refrigerator, do not freeze.

 Amlodipine patient tips (more detail)

Amlodipine Dosing information

Usual Amlodipine Adult Dose for Hypertension:

Initial dose: 5 mg orally once a day

Maintenance dose: 5 to 10 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Comments: Patients who are small or fragile may be started on 2.5 mg orally once a day.

Usual Adult Dose for Angina Pectoris:

Maintenance dose: 5 to 10 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Usual Adult Dose for Coronary Artery Disease:

Maintenance dose: 5 to 10 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 10 mg/day

Usual Geriatric Dose for Hypertension:

Initial dose: 2.5 mg orally once a day

Maintenance dose: 2.5 to 10 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 10 mg/day.

Usual Geriatric Dose for Angina Pectoris:

Initial dose: 5 mg orally once a day

Maintenance dose: 5 to 10 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 10 mg/day..

Uses: Alone or in combination with other antianginal agents for the symptomatic treatment of chronic stable angina

-Alone or in combination with other antianginal agents for the treatment of confirmed/suspected vasospastic angina

-To reduce the risk of hospitalization for angina and to reduce the risk of a coronary revascularization procedure in patients with recently documented CAD by angiography and without heart failure or an ejection fraction less than 40%

Usual Pediatric Dose for Hypertension:

6 to 17 years:


-Maintenance dose: 2.5 to 5 mg orally once a day

-Maximum dose: 5 mg/day

Comments: Doses higher than 5 mg have not been studied in pediatric patients.

The dosage should be adjusted according to patient response. In general, titration should proceed over 7 to 14 days. If clinically warranted, titration may proceed more rapidly, provided the patient is assessed frequently.

Use: Alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents to treat hypertension

 Detailed Amlodipine dosage information

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if you are more than 12 hours late for the dose. Do not take two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include rapid heartbeats, redness or warmth in your arms or legs, or fainting.

What should I avoid while taking amlodipine?

Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy.

What other drugs will affect amlodipine?

Sometimes it is not safe to use certain medicines at the same time. Some drugs can affect your blood levels of other drugs you use, which may increase side effects or make the medicines less effective.

Other drugs may interact with amlodipine, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

 [Amlodipine drug interactions \(more detail\)](#)

Popular FAQ

[What is the best time of day to take blood pressure medication?](#) 

[How long does it take for amlodipine to work?](#) 

[How do I reduce swelling from amlodipine?](#) 

[Does amlodipine cause weight gain?](#) 

More FAQ

- What medications cause swollen ankles and feet?
- Best time to take amlodipine - day or night?
- How long does amlodipine stay in your system?

[View more FAQ...](#)

References

1. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Norvasc Product Label
2. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Katerzia Product Label
3. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Norliqva Product Label

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use amlodipine only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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