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Quicklinks **High Blood Pressure** Normal Blood Pressure **High Blood Pressure** Symptoms **Blood Pressure DASH Diet** Lisinopril Atenolol Norvasc Altace Diovan Toprol Coreg

Blood Pressure Medicine

Different types of medicine for blood pressure include ACE inhibitors, diuretics, and beta blockers. Often, two or more medicines work better than one taken alone. If your doctor prescribes one of these medications, it's important to take it exactly as directed. Along with certain lifestyle changes, these medicines can help people with high blood pressure live a long and healthy life.

Lowering Blood Pressure

Blood Pressure Medicine

Diet for High Blood Pressure

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Supplements for High Blood

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Pressure Reduction

DASH Eating Plan

Pressure

Pressure

Pressure

Pressure

Pressure

Weight and High Blood

Alcohol and High Blood

View Article Sections: Display Window \ Lowering High Blood Pressure

An Introduction to Blood

Pressure Medicine

In addition to lifestyle changes, many people require medicine for **blood pressure** to improve their condition. There are many types of drugs for hypertension. Each of these works in a different way. It's possible that your healthcare provider will need to try a few different types of medications to determine which one is best for you.

If your doctor does prescribe a drug, don't forget to take your pills exactly as directed. Even if you feel well, you still need to take the medicine.

Categories of Medicines for High Blood Pressure

There are several categories of blood pressure medicine. Often, two or more drugs work better in combination than one. The main types drugs used to treat this condition include:

- Diuretics

Beta blockers

- Angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs)
- Calcium channel blockers (CCBs)
- Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
- · Alpha blockers
- Alpha-beta blockers
- · Nervous system inhibitors
- · Vasodilators.

Descriptions of Blood Pressure Medicine



As a whole, the different types of high blood pressure medicine are known as "antihypertensives." In the following sections, each variety of antihypertensive drugs is described in more detail.

Beta Blockers

Beta blockers reduce the heart rate and the heart's output of blood. They do this by reducing nerve impulses to the heart and blood vessels. This makes the heart beat slower and with less force. Blood pressure drops, and the heart doesn't need to work as hard.

Beta blockers employed as blood pressure medicines include:

- Metoprolol (Lopressor[®])
- Atenolol (Tenormin[®])
- Propranolol (Inderal[®])
- Metoprolol succinate (Toprol XL[®])
- Labetalol (Trandate[®]).

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