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Adcirca

Generic name: [tadalafil](#) [*ta-DAL-a-fil*]

Drug class: [Agents for pulmonary hypertension](#)

Medically reviewed by [Philip Thornton, DipPharm](#). Last updated on Dec 9, 2024.

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What is Adcirca?

Adcirca [relaxes muscles of the blood vessels](#) and increases blood flow to particular areas of the body.

Adcirca is used to treat [pulmonary arterial hypertension](#) and improve exercise capacity in men and women.

Another brand of tadalafil is Cialis which used to treat erectile dysfunction (impotence) and symptoms of benign prostatic hypertrophy (enlarged prostate) in men. Do not take Adcirca while also taking Cialis, unless your doctor tells you to.

Warnings

Taking Adcirca with certain other medicines can cause a sudden and serious decrease in blood pressure.

Do not take Adcirca if you also use riociguat, or a nitrate drug such as [nitroglycerin](#), [isosorbide dinitrate](#), [isosorbide mononitrate](#), or recreational drugs such as "poppers."

Get medical help at once if you have [nausea](#), chest pain, or [dizziness](#) during sex.

Stop using Adcirca and get emergency medical help if you have sudden vision loss.

Before taking this medicine

You should not take Adcirca if you are allergic to tadalafil, or:

- if you take other medicines to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension, such as riociguat ([Adempas](#)).

Do not take Adcirca if you are also using a nitrate drug for chest pain or heart problems. This includes nitroglycerin, isosorbide dinitrate, and isosorbide mononitrate. Nitrates are also found in some recreational drugs such as butyl nitrate or amyl nitrite ("poppers"). **Taking tadalafil with a nitrate medicine can cause a sudden and serious decrease in blood pressure.**

Some tadalafil can remain in your bloodstream for 2 or more days after each dose you take (longer if you have liver or kidney disease). Avoid nitrate use during this time.

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

- heart problems (chest pain, a heart rhythm disorder, [heart failure](#));
- a [heart attack](#) or stroke;
- high or [low blood pressure](#);
- liver disease;
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis);
- retinitis pigmentosa (an inherited condition of the eye);
- blindness in one or both eyes;
- hearing problems;
- blood circulation problems;
- a blood cell disorder such as sickle cell anemia, multiple myeloma, or [leukemia](#);
- pulmonary veno-occlusive disease (PVOD);
- a physical deformity of the penis (such as [Peyronie's disease](#)), or an erection lasting longer than 4 hours;
- a [stomach ulcer](#); or
- health problems that make sexual activity unsafe.

A small number of people taking tadalafil have had sudden vision loss. Most of these people already had eye problems, or had diabetes or other health conditions that can affect blood vessels in the eyes. **It is not clear whether tadalafil causes vision loss.**

Do not start or stop taking Adcirca during pregnancy without your doctor's advice. Having pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) during pregnancy may cause heart failure, stroke, or other medical problems in both mother and baby. **Tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.**

It may not be safe to breastfeed while using Adcirca. Ask your doctor about any risk.

Adcirca is not approved for use by anyone younger than 18 years old.

 [Adcirca pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Adcirca?

Adcirca is usually taken only once per day. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Adcirca can be taken with or without food. You may need to take two 20mg tablets for a full dose. Take both tablets one after the other. Do not split the dose

Do not take Cialis for erectile dysfunction if you are taking Adcirca for pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Do not change your Adcirca dose or stop taking this medicine without your doctor's advice.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Pulmonary Hypertension:

40 mg orally once a day, with or without food.

Comment: Dividing the 40 mg dose over the course of the day is not recommended.

 [Detailed Adcirca dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose of Adcirca, take the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next 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.

What to avoid

Avoid drinking alcohol. It may increase your risk of dizziness or fainting.

[Grapefruit](#) may interact with tadalafil and lead to unwanted side effects. Avoid the use of grapefruit products.

Adcirca side effects

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

Stop using this medicine and call your doctor at once if you have:

- **heart attack symptoms** - chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, nausea, sweating;
- vision changes or sudden vision loss;
- ringing in your ears or sudden [hearing loss](#); or
- an erection is painful or lasts longer than 4 hours (prolonged erection can damage the penis).

Stop and get medical help at once if you have nausea, chest pain, or dizziness during sex. You could be having a life-threatening side effect.

Common Adcirca side effects may include:

- [headache](#);
- flushing (warmth, redness, or tingly feeling);
- nausea, [upset stomach](#);
- runny or stuffy nose; or

- muscle [pain](#), [back](#) pain, pain in your arms, legs, or back.

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.

 [Adcirca side effects](#) (more detail)

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Adempas

Adempas (riociguat) is used to treat pulmonary hypertension. Includes

Adempas side effects ...

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What other drugs will affect Adcirca?

Do not take **Adcirca** with similar medications such as [avanafil \(Stendra\)](#), [sildenafil \(Viagra\)](#) or [vardenafil \(Levitra\)](#). **Tell your doctor about all other medications you use for erectile dysfunction.**

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- medicines to treat erectile dysfunction or pulmonary arterial hypertension;
- drugs to treat [high blood pressure](#) or a prostate disorder;
- an [antibiotic](#) such as [clarithromycin](#), [erythromycin](#), [rifampin](#), or telithromycin;
- antifungal medicine such as [ketoconazole](#) or [itraconazole](#);
- medicine to treat [HIV/AIDS](#), such as [ritonavir](#) and others; or
- seizure medicine such as [carbamazepine](#) or [phenytoin](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may interact with tadalafil, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [Adcirca drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Adcirca interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Adcirca

+

Enter a drug name

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Patient resources

Other brands

[Cialis](#)

Professional resources

- [Adcirca prescribing information](#)
- [Tadalafil \(Pulmonary Hypertension\) \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

Cialis, Tadiq, Alyq

Related treatment guides

- Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Adcirca 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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DRUG STATUS

Availability	
Rx	Prescription only
Pregnancy & Lactation	
	Risk data available
CSA Schedule*	
N/A	Not a controlled drug
Approval History	
	Drug history at FDA

User Reviews & Ratings

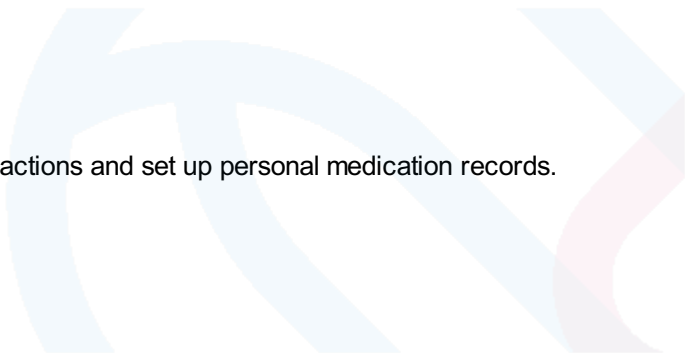
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Adcirca 20 mg (4467)

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