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2. Cardizem

Cardizem

Generic name: [diltiazem](#) [dil-TYE-a-zem]

Brand names: Cardizem, [Cardizem CD](#), [Cardizem LA](#)

Drug classes: [Calcium channel blockers](#), [Group IV antiarrhythmics](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Aug 26, 2024.

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Warnings](#) [Interactions](#)

What is Cardizem?

Cardizem is used to treat hypertension ([high blood pressure](#)) in adults. It may be used alone or in combination with other high blood pressure medications. Lowering blood pressure may lower your risk of a stroke or [heart attack](#).

Cardizem is also used to treat chronic stable [angina](#) (chest pain) and angina due to coronary artery spasm.

Cardizem belongs in a class of medications called calcium-channel blockers. Diltiazem works by relaxing the blood vessels so the heart does not have to pump as hard. Diltiazem also increases the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart.

Cardizem side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Cardizem** (hives, difficult breathing, swelling in your face or throat) or a **severe skin reaction** ([fever](#), [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

Diltiazem may cause serious side effects. Call your doctor at once if you have:

- chest pain, fast, slow, or uneven heart rate;
- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- **heart problems** - swelling, rapid weight gain, feeling short of breath; or
- **liver problems** - loss of appetite, stomach pain (upper right side), tiredness, itching, dark urine, clay-colored stools, [jaundice](#) (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Common Cardizem side effects may include:

- swelling;
- infections, flu symptoms;
- trouble breathing;

- [headache](#), dizziness, weakness;
- slower heart rate;
- [nausea](#), [upset stomach](#); or
- rash.

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.

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

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Before taking this medicine

You should not use Cardizem if you are allergic to diltiazem, or if you have:

- a serious heart condition such as "sick sinus syndrome" or "AV block" (unless you have a pacemaker);
- very low blood pressure;
- if your heart cannot pump blood properly; or
- if you have recently had a heart attack and you have a build-up of fluid in your lungs.

You may not be able to use Cardizem if you have:

- [heart failure](#);
- certain heart rhythm disorders;
- a heart condition that causes you to have very fast heartbeats; or

- if you are receiving an intravenous beta-blocker (such as [atenolol](#), [metoprolol](#), or [propranolol](#)).

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

- congestive heart failure or heart problems;
- low blood pressure or [slow heart rate](#); or
- liver disease.

It is not known whether diltiazem will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.

i [Cardizem pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I use Cardizem?

Take Cardizem 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. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Your dose needs may change if you switch to a different brand, strength, or form of this medicine.

Cardizem tablets may be swallowed whole, crushed, or chewed. Cardizem LA tablets and Cardizem CD capsules should be swallowed whole and not chewed or crushed.

Your blood pressure and liver function will need to be checked often.

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

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

i [Detailed Cardizem dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take Cardizem 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.

Overdose symptoms may include low blood pressure, slow heart rate, severe dizziness, or fainting.

What should I avoid while using Cardizem?

Avoid drinking alcohol while taking **Cardizem CD extended-release** capsules. Alcohol increases the rate at which

Cardizem CD releases diltiazem, which may lead to dose-related adverse effects.

Avoid taking an herbal supplement containing [St. John's wort](#).

Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy. Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

Warnings

You should not use Cardizem if you have very [low blood pressure](#), a serious heart condition such as "sick sinus syndrome" or "AV block" (unless you have a pacemaker), or if you have recently had a heart attack and you have a build-up of fluid in your lungs.

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

Cardizem may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert. Do not stop taking this medication without first talking to your doctor. If you stop taking this medicine suddenly, your condition may become worse.

Cardizem may be only part of a complete program of treatment that also includes diet, exercise, and other medications. Follow your diet, medication, and exercise routines very closely.

If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using this medicine even if you feel well. High blood pressure often has no symptoms. You may need to use blood pressure medicine for the rest of your life. However, if you have symptoms of low blood pressure (dizziness, fainting, weakness, or blurred vision), call your doctor and stop taking Cardizem.

What other drugs will affect Cardizem?

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.

Many drugs can interact with diltiazem. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible interactions are listed here. Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use.

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

Does Cardizem interact with my other drugs?

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

Cardizem

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Manufacturer

Bausch Health Companies Inc., Steinbach, MB R5G 1Z7, Canada.

References

1. [Cardizem LA Product Label](#)
2. [Cardizem Tablets Product Label](#)
3. [Cardizem CD Product Label](#)

More about Cardizem (diltiazem)

- [Check interactions](#)
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- [Breastfeeding](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Cardizem \(Diltiazem Intravenous\) advanced reading](#)

Other brands

[Cartia XT](#), [Dilt-XR](#), [Tiazac](#), [Diltia XT](#), ... +4 more

Professional resources

- [Cardizem prescribing information](#)
- [Diltiazem Hydrochloride \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Cartia XT](#), [Dilt-XR](#), [Tiadylt ER](#), [Tiazac](#), ... +3 more

Other formulations

- [Cardizem CD](#)
- [Cardizem LA](#)

Related treatment guides

- [High Blood Pressure](#)
- [Angina Pectoris Prophylaxis](#)
- [Heart Failure](#)

Further information

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

10+ years FDA approved 1982



User Reviews & Ratings

7.3 / 10

[12 Reviews](#)

Images

[Cardizem 60 mg \(MARION 17 72\)](#)



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