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2. Vasotec

Vasotec

Generic name: [enalapril](#) [e-NAL-a-pril]

Dosage form: oral tablet (10 mg; 2.5 mg; 20 mg; 5 mg).

Drug class: [Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Mar 1, 2024.

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What is Vasotec?

Vasotec (enalapril) is used alone or in combination with other medications to treat [high blood pressure](#) in adults and children at least 1 month old.

Vasotec can also be used to prevent and treat congestive [congestive heart failure](#) in adults.

Vasotec belongs to a class of medications called angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. Enalapril works by decreasing certain chemicals that tighten the blood vessels, so blood flows more smoothly and the heart can pump blood more efficiently.

Warnings

Do not use Vasotec if you are pregnant. If you become pregnant, stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor right away.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines. **Some drugs should not be used with Vasotec.**

If you have diabetes, do not use enalapril together with any medication that contains aliskiren (such as Tekturna or Tekamlo).

You should not use Vasotec if you have ever had angioedema. Do not take Vasotec within 36 hours before or after taking any medicine that contains sacubatril (such as Entresto).

Enalapril can affect your heart or your electrolyte levels. Call your doctor if you have chest pain, pounding heartbeats or fluttering in your chest, a slow heart rate or weak pulse, a tingly feeling, muscle weakness, or muscle tightness or contraction.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Vasotec if you are allergic to enalapril or to any other ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitor

such as [benazepril](#), [captopril](#), [fosinopril](#), [trandolapril](#), [lisinopril](#), [moexipril](#), [perindopril](#), [quinapril](#), or [ramipril](#).

Do not use Vasotec within 36 hours before or after taking medicine that contains sacubitril (such as [Entresto](#)).

Do not use Vasotec if you have a history of [angioedema](#) (severe allergic reaction).

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

- [heart disease](#), heart problems such as a recent [heart attack](#);
- [low blood pressure](#);
- stomach pain;
- low white blood cell count;
- if you are on a low-salt diet;
- diabetes;
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis); or
- [liver disease](#).

You may also need to avoid taking Vasotec with aliskiren **if you have kidney disease**.

Stop using this medicine and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant. Enalapril can cause injury or death to the unborn baby if you use the medicine during your second or third trimester.

Do not breastfeed.

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

How should I use Vasotec?

Take Vasotec 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.

Vasotec tablets are taken by mouth.

You may take Vasotec tablets with or without food.

Call your doctor if you have ongoing [vomiting](#) or [diarrhea](#), or if you are sweating more than usual. You can easily become dehydrated while taking Vasotec. This can lead to very low blood pressure, an electrolyte imbalance, or [kidney failure](#).

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often and you may need frequent blood tests.

Tell your doctor if you have a planned [surgery](#).

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

Store Vasotec tablets tightly closed at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Hypertension:

Initial dose: 5 mg orally once a day

Maintenance dose: 10 to 40 mg orally per day as a single dose or in 2 divided doses

Maximum dose: 40 mg orally daily as a single dose or in 2 divided doses

In combination with [diuretics](#):

Initial dose: 2.5 mg orally once a day

If feasible, the diuretic should be discontinued 2 to 3 days prior to initiation of therapy with enalapril. If required, diuretic therapy may be gradually resumed.

Usual Adult Dose for Congestive Heart Failure:

Initial dose: 2.5 mg orally once a day

Maintenance dose: 2.5 to 20 mg daily in 2 divided doses

Maximum dose: 40 mg orally per day in 2 divided doses

Comments:

-Treatment is usually combined with diuretics and digitalis.

-Doses should be titrated upward, as tolerated, over a period of a few days or weeks.

Usual Adult Dose for Left Ventricular Dysfunction:

Initial dose: 2.5 mg orally twice a day

Maintenance dose: 20 mg orally per day in 2 divided doses

Comments:

-After the initial dose, the patient should be observed for at least 2 hours and until blood pressure has stabilized for at least an additional hour.

-If possible, the dose of any concomitant diuretic should be reduced which may diminish the likelihood of [hypotension](#).

Usual Pediatric Dose for Hypertension:

Children 1 month to 17 years:

Initial dose: 0.08 mg/kg/day (up to 5 mg) in 1 to 2 divided doses. Adjust dosage based on patient response.

Maximum dose: Doses greater than 0.58 mg/kg (40 mg) have not been evaluated in pediatric patients.

Comment:

-Not recommended in neonates and in pediatric patients with glomerular filtration rate less than 30 mL/min, as no data are available.

 [Detailed Vasotec dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

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 should I avoid while using Vasotec?

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

Do not use potassium supplements or salt substitutes, unless your doctor has told you to.

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise, in hot weather, or by not drinking enough fluids. Follow your doctor's instructions about the type and amount of liquids you should drink. In some cases, drinking too much liquid can be as unsafe as not drinking enough.

Vasotec side effects

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

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

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- **high blood potassium** - [nausea](#), weakness, tingly feeling, chest pain, irregular heartbeats, loss of movement;
- **low white blood cell counts** - [fever](#), mouth sores, skin sores, [sore throat](#), [cough](#);
- **kidney problems** - swelling, urinating less, feeling tired or 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 Vasotec side effects may include:

- cough, diarrhea;
- chest pain, dizziness, tiredness;
- [headache](#), nausea; or
- low blood pressure.

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.

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

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What other drugs will affect Vasotec?

Enalapril can harm your kidneys, especially if you also use certain medicines for infections, [cancer](#), [osteoporosis](#).

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- a diuretic or "water pill" that may increase blood potassium such as [spironolactone](#), [triamterene](#), [amiloride](#);
- **NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)** - [aspirin](#), [ibuprofen](#) ([Advil](#), [Motrin](#)), [naproxen](#) ([Aleve](#)), [celecoxib](#), [diclofenac](#), [indomethacin](#), [meloxicam](#), and others;
- medicine to prevent [organ transplant](#) rejection such as [temsirolimus](#), [sirolimus](#), or [everolimus](#); or
- heart or blood pressure medication.

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

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

Does Vasotec interact with my other drugs?

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

Vasotec

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Ingredients

Active ingredient: enalapril maleate.

Inactive ingredients: lactose, magnesium stearate, sodium bicarbonate, and starch. The 10 mg and 20 mg tablets also contain iron oxides.

Manufacturer

Frequently asked questions

- [Do ACE inhibitors make COVID-19 worse?](#)

References

1. [Vasotec Product Label](#)

More about Vasotec (enalapril)

- [Check interactions](#)
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Patient resources

Other brands

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- [Vasotec prescribing information](#)
- [Enalapril \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

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Related treatment guides

- [Diabetic Kidney Disease](#)
- [High Blood Pressure](#)

- [Hypertensive Emergency](#)
- [Heart Failure](#)
- [Left Ventricular Dysfunction](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Vasotec 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 1985



User Reviews & Ratings

[4 Reviews](#)

Images

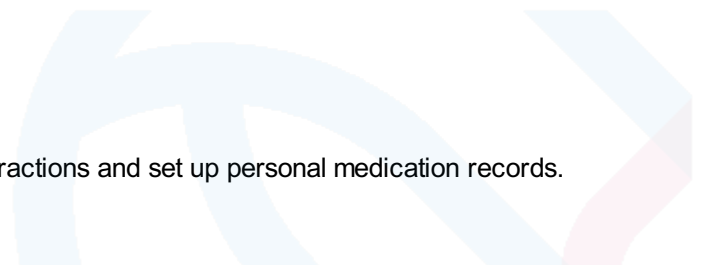
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