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2. Norvasc

Norvasc

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

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

Drug class: [Calcium channel blockers](#)

Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Apr 8, 2024.

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What is Norvasc?

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

Norvasc 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).

Norvasc controls chest pain by increasing the supply of blood to the heart. If taken regularly, amlodipine 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.

Norvasc 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](#).

Warnings

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

Drinking alcohol can further lower your blood pressure within the first 12 hours and may increase certain side effects of amlodipine.

If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using Norvasc 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.

Norvasc 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 Norvasc 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 Norvasc if you are allergic to amlodipine.

To make sure Norvasc 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.

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

How should I take Norvasc?

Take Norvasc 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.

Norvasc is usually taken once per day.

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

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often.

If you have high blood pressure, keep using Norvasc 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 Norvasc at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Norvasc patient tips](#) (more detail)

Dosing information

Usual Adult Dose of Norvasc 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.

Usual Adult Dose of Norvasc for Angina Pectoris:

Maintenance dose: 5 to 10 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 10 mg/day.

Usual Adult Dose of Norvasc 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.

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.

 [Detailed Norvasc 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 Norvasc?

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

Norvasc side effects

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

In rare cases, when you first start taking Norvasc, 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.

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

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

Common Norvasc side effects 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).

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.

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

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What other drugs will affect Norvasc?

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.

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

Does Norvasc interact with my other drugs?

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

Norvasc

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Ingredients

Active ingredient: amlodipine besylate

Inactive ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, dibasic calcium phosphate anhydrous, sodium starch glycolate, and magnesium stearate.

Manufacturer

Pfizer Inc: 235 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017,USA.

Popular FAQ

What is the best time of day to take blood pressure medication?



How do I reduce swelling from amlodipine?



How long does it take for amlodipine to work?



Does amlodipine cause weight gain?



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

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References

1. [Norvasc Product Label](#)

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Patient resources

Other brands

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- [Norvasc prescribing information](#)
- [AmLODIPine \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Katerzia](#), [Norliqva](#)

Related treatment guides

- [High Blood Pressure](#)
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- [Coronary Artery Disease](#)

Further information

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

10+ years

Approval History

FDA approved 1992



User Reviews & Ratings

4.7 / 10

[105 Reviews](#)

Images

Norvasc 10 mg (NORVASC 10)



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