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2. Irbesartan

Irbesartan

Generic name: irbesartan [*ir-be-SAR-tan*]**Brand name:** [Avapro](#)**Dosage form:** oral tablet (150 mg; 300 mg; 75 mg)**Drug class:** [Angiotensin receptor blockers](#)[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Apr 16, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is irbesartan?

Irbesartan is an [angiotensin II](#) receptor blocker (sometimes called an ARB).

Irbesartan is used 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](#).

Irbesartan is also used to treat kidney problems caused by [type 2 diabetes](#).

Irbesartan may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Irbesartan side effects

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

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

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- little or no urination;
- **high potassium level**--nausea, weakness, tingly feeling, chest pain, irregular heartbeats, loss of movement.

Common side effects of irbesartan may include:

- dizziness;
- feeling light-headed; or
- high potassium.

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.

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Warnings

Do not use if you are pregnant. Stop using and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.

If you have diabetes, do not take irbesartan with any medication that contains [aliskiren](#) (a blood pressure medicine).

Before taking this medicine

You should not use irbesartan if you are allergic to it.

If you have diabetes, do not take irbesartan with any medication that contains aliskiren (a blood pressure medicine).

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

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- a heart condition other than one being treated with irbesartan;
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis); or
- if you are on a low-salt diet.

Do not use if you are pregnant. Stop using the medicine and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant.

Irbesartan can cause injury or death to the unborn baby if you take the medicine during your second or third trimester.

If you plan to get pregnant, ask your doctor for a safer medicine to use before and during pregnancy. Having high blood pressure during pregnancy may cause complications in the mother and the baby.

You should not breastfeed while using irbesartan.

How should I take irbesartan?

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.

Irbesartan may be taken with or without food.

Your blood pressure will need to be checked often. Your kidney function may also need to be checked.

Call your doctor if you are sick with [vomiting](#) or [diarrhea](#), or if you are sweating more than usual. You can easily become dehydrated while taking irbesartan.

It may take up to 2 weeks before your blood pressure is under control. **Keep using this medicine as directed, 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. Treatment may also include diet, exercise, lowering cholesterol, not smoking, and controlling diabetes.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Irbesartan dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Hypertension:

Initial dose: 150 mg orally once a day

Maintenance 150 to 300 mg orally once a day

Maximum dose: 300 mg orally once a day

Comments:

-May be used alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents.

Use: Treatment of hypertension

Usual Adult Dose for Diabetic Nephropathy:

300 mg orally once a day

Comments:

-This drug has been shown to reduce the rate of progression of [nephropathy](#) as measured by the occurrence of doubling of serum creatinine or ESRD (need for dialysis or renal transplantation).

Use: Treatment of diabetic nephropathy in patients with type 2 diabetes and hypertension with elevated serum creatinine and [proteinuria](#) (greater than 300 mg/day)

 [Detailed Irbesartan 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.

Overdose symptoms may include fast heartbeats or [fainting](#).

What should I avoid while taking irbesartan?

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

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

What other drugs will affect irbesartan?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- heart or blood pressure medication;
- lithium; or
- **NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)**--aspirin, [ibuprofen](#) (Advil, Motrin), [naproxen](#) (Aleve), [celecoxib](#), [diclofenac](#), [indomethacin](#), [meloxicam](#), and others.

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

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

Does irbesartan interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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Other brands

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Related treatment guides

- [Diabetic Kidney Disease](#)
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Further information

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

4.5 / 10

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