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2. Olmesartan

# Olmesartan

**Generic name:** olmesartan [ *OL-me-SAR-tan* ]

**Brand name:** [Benicar](#)

**Dosage form:** oral tablet (20 mg; 40 mg; 5 mg)

**Drug class:** [Angiotensin receptor blockers](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Apr 18, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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## What is olmesartan?

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

Olmesartan is used to treat [high blood pressure](#) (hypertension) in adults and children at least 6 years old. It is sometimes given together with other blood pressure medications.

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

## Olmesartan 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.

**Olmesartan 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;
- severe [diarrhea](#) and [weight loss](#); or
- **high potassium level**--nausea, weakness, tingly feeling, chest pain, irregular heartbeats, loss of movement.

**Common side effects of olmesartan may include:**

- dizziness.

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.



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

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## Warnings

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

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

## Before taking this medicine

You should not take olmesartan if you are allergic to it.

**If you have diabetes**, do not use olmesartan together with any medication that contains aliskiren (a blood pressure medicine).

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

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- a heart condition other than one being treated with olmesartan;
- kidney disease; 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.**

Olmesartan 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 olmesartan.

## How should I take olmesartan?

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.

You may take olmesartan with or without food.

For a child who cannot swallow a **tablet** whole, a pharmacist can mix the medicine into a liquid.

Shake the **liquid** before you measure a dose. Use the dosing syringe provided, or use a medicine dose-measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Olmesartan doses are based on weight in children and/or teenagers. Your child's dose needs may change if the child

gains or loses weight.

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 olmesartan.

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.

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

Store **tablets** at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

Store the **liquid** in a refrigerator. Throw away any liquid leftover after 4 weeks.

## Olmesartan dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Hypertension:

20 mg orally once a day; may increase dose to 40 mg in two weeks if further blood pressure reduction is needed.

Maximum dose: 40 mg orally once a day

#### Comments:

- For patients with possible [intravascular volume depletion](#) (e.g., patients treated with [diuretics](#), especially those with impaired renal function), initiate this drug under close supervision and give consideration to a lower starting dose.
- Twice daily dosing offers no additional benefit over the same total dose given once daily.

### Usual Pediatric Dose for Hypertension:

6 to 16 years:

- 20 to less than 35 kg: 10 mg orally once a day; may increase dose to 20 mg in two weeks if further blood pressure reduction is needed
- 35 kg or more: 20 mg orally once a day; may increase dose to 40 mg in two weeks if further blood pressure reduction is needed

#### Comments:

- For children who cannot swallow tablets, the same dose can be given using an extemporaneous suspension.

 [Detailed Olmesartan 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 olmesartan?

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 olmesartan?

If you take [colesevelam](#), take your olmesartan dose 4 hours before you take colesevelam.

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- lithium;
- a diuretic (water pill) or other medicines that lower blood pressure; 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 olmesartan, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

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

## Does olmesartan interact with my other drugs?

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

+

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

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- [Olmesartan Medoxomil \(FDA\)](#)

### Other brands

[Benicar](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [High Blood Pressure](#)
- [Migraine Prevention](#)

## 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.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)


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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

6.4 / 10

[200 Reviews](#)

## Images

[Olmesartan Medoxomil 20 mg \(K 18\)](#)



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