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2. Enalapril

# Enalapril

**Generic name:** enalapril (oral/injection) [ *e-NAL-a-pril* ]

**Brand names:** [Epaned](#), [Vasotec](#)

**Dosage forms:** intravenous solution (1.25 mg/mL), oral liquid (1 mg/mL), 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 enalapril?

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

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

Enalapril injection is used in adults to treat high blood pressure.

Enalapril belongs to a class of medications called angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors. It 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 enalapril 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 enalapril.**

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

You should not use enalapril if you have ever had angioedema. Do not take this medicine within 36 hours before or after taking any medicine that contains sacubitril (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 enalapril if you are allergic to it or to any other ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitor such as [benazepril](#), [captopril](#), [fosinopril](#), [trandolapril](#), [lisinopril](#), [moexipril](#), [perindopril](#), [quinapril](#), or [ramipril](#).

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

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

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

To make sure this medicine 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 enalapril 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.

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

## How should I use enalapril?

Take enalapril 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.

The tablets and oral solution (liquid) are taken by mouth.

You may take enalapril oral with or without food.

Measure liquid medicine with the supplied measuring device (not a kitchen spoon).

Enalapril is usually given by injection only if you are unable to take medicine by mouth.

Enalapril injection is given in a vein. A healthcare provider will give you this injection.

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 enalapril. 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 enalapril even if you feel well. High blood pressure often has no symptoms.

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

Store the **liquid medicine** tightly closed in a refrigerator. Do not freeze. You may also store **liquid medicine** at room temperature and use within 60 days.

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

## Enalapril dosing information

### Usual Adult Dose for Hypertension:

Initial dose (oral tablets or solution): 5 mg orally once a day

Maintenance dose (oral tablets or solution): 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.

Parenteral: 1.25 to 5 mg IV over a 5 minute period every 6 hours

Comments:

-Clinical response is usually seen within 15 minutes after IV administration.

-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:

Oral tablets or solution:

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 Enalapril 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.

In a medical setting you are not likely to miss an enalapril injection dose.

## 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 enalapril?

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.

## Enalapril side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to enalapril**: 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 enalapril 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.

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

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## What other drugs will affect enalapril?

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.

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

## Does enalapril interact with my other drugs?

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

enalapril

+

Enter a drug name

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## Frequently asked questions

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## Patient resources

### Other brands

[Vasotec](#), [Epaned](#)

## Professional resources

- [Enalapril monograph](#)
- [Enalapril Oral Solution \(FDA\)](#)
- [Enalapril Tablets \(FDA\)](#)

### Other brands

[Vasotec](#), [Epaned](#)

## Related treatment guides

- [High Blood Pressure](#)
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- [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 enalapril 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



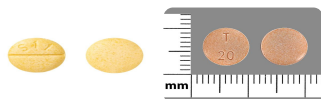
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