

## What's my Drug?

**Lisinopril** is an ACE inhibitor. It is mainly used for high blood pressure, heart failure and to protect the heart after a heart attack. It can help the kidneys in people with diabetes.

**How to take it:** Wash it down with a drink. Take it at the same time each day.

**Possible side effects include:** Feeling a little dizzy when you first start treatment, particularly if you stand up quickly. You could faint. Caution; this is a significant risk if you already take water tablets (diuretics). If you are just starting this medicine, you could take it at night. That way any dizziness may happen when you are in bed. Just be very careful if you have to get up during the night. You could get sickness, diarrhoea or constipation, chest pains, drowsiness, or breathing problems. You could get an irritating dry cough. If this does not go away tell your doctor. Other side effects include headaches and low mood (depression).

**Rare but important side effects:** This medicine can affect the liver and the pancreas. Let your health professional know straight away if you get jaundice (going yellow) or severe tummy pains. Because this medication can affect the kidneys you will need regular blood tests. If the kidneys do get affected you will need to stop this medication. Skin rashes, sometimes severe, can happen. Your skin could get more sensitive to sunlight. Your hair could go thin (alopecia). Heart attacks are slightly more common when on treatment. Very rarely, it could affect your blood count which could make you a little more likely to pick up infections. You can get allergic to this medicine. Tell a doctor straight away if you get swelling of the face, mouth, or throat, or have trouble breathing. If you have diabetes this medicine could affect your blood sugar (glucose) levels.

**Warnings and Cautions:** This medicine does not mix well with certain others e.g. lithium and NSAIDs like ibuprofen. It is usually stopped before surgical operations. If you feel dizzy or drowsy you should not drive or operate machinery. To find out more about this medicine's other possible side effects, read the full Product Information Leaflet. For women: this medicine is not for use during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Women must tell their doctor as soon as possible if they suspect they might be pregnant.

