

Drug Information Table
ACE Inhibitors – captopril (Capoten)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Hypertension ◦Heart failure (HF) ◦Diabetic nephropathy ◦Left ventricular dysfunction following myocardial infarction, (ramipril) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available for oral use only • Must be taken two to three times daily for hypertension; three times daily for heart failure • Give captopril 1 hr before meals for adequate absorption 	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe hypotension following first dose (most likely in patients taking diuretics, with high BP, or who have hyponatremia) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start ACE inhibitors with low dose and gradually increase to prevent hypotension • Diuretics may be temporarily stopped before first dose of ACE inhibitor is given • Monitor BP following first dose • Manage severe hypotension by expanding blood volume with IV fluid therapy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware that this effects may occur • Lie supine if lightheadedness occurs following first dose
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry, nonproductive cough due to increase in bradykinin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for and report dry cough • Discontinue use of ACE inhibitor if dry cough occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report dry cough to provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rash and report of metallic taste in mouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for and report these effects (ACE inhibitor may be discontinued) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report rash to provider • Report metallic or decreased ability to taste foods associated with decreased intake and weight loss
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angioedema (swelling of mouth, throat (due to inhibition of kinase II) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat severe angioedema with IV epinephrine • Discontinue use of any ACE inhibitor if angioedema occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report minor swelling of mouth, throat to provider; call 911 immediately if severe reaction occurs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperkalemia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor potassium levels in patients who are at risk (See interactions, below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refrain from using potassium supplements and potassium-containing salt substitutes while taking an ACE inhibitor • Report palpitations, muscle twitching, weakness or paresthesias in extremities to provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutropenia (decrease in white blood cells with increased risk of infection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor white blood cell counts (WBC) with differential (includes number of neutrophils and other types of white blood cells) every 2 weeks for first 3 months of therapy and then periodically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report sore throat or other signs of infection to provider
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take an ACE inhibitor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy risk category D (fetal damage), lactation • Angioedema or allergy to ACE inhibitors • Hypotension • Liver disease with elevated liver enzymes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased renal function • Bone marrow depression or use of other drugs that cause immunosuppression • Auto immune disorders, such as rheumatoid arthritis • Cardiovascular disease • Cerebral vascular disease • Heart failure • Hyperkalemia • Hyponatremia • Older adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potassium-sparing diuretics, potassium supplements, or use of salt substitutes increase risk for hyperkalemia • Antihypertensive drugs, diuretics, and nitrates (such as nitroglycerin) increase risk for hypotension • NSAIDs may decrease effectiveness • Food decreases absorption of ACE inhibitors • ACE inhibitors may cause lithium toxicity