

Drug Information Table

Direct renin inhibitors – aliskiren (Tekturna)

Therapeutic Use	Administration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treats hypertension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in oral form only • High fat-meals decrease absorption • Give at a consistent time daily relative to meals • Expect 2 weeks before full effect is seen • Monitor for hypotension at beginning of therapy and after any dose increase 	
Side/Adverse Effects	Interventions	Patient Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyperkalemia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for signs of hyperkalemia (see patient instructions) • Monitor periodic potassium levels, BUN and creatinine in patients at risk for hyperkalemia • Ensure that patient is not taking potassium-sparing diuretics or other drugs that raise potassium levels (see interactions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take potassium supplements, salt substitutes or drugs that raise potassium levels unless prescribed by the provider • Report palpitations, muscle twitching, weakness, or paresthesias in extremities to provider
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough or angioedema (swelling of mouth, throat)—can occur at any time during treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for and report persistent cough to provider • Monitor and report angioedema immediately • Treat moderate-severe angioedema with epinephrine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report persistent cough to provider • Report minor swelling of mouth, throat to provider; call 911 immediately if severe reaction occurs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diarrhea, abdominal pain — more likely in high doses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for and report GI symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report GI symptoms to provider
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop taking aliskiren if pregnant; fetal injury can occur after 1st trimester
Contraindications	Precautions	Interactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pregnancy risk category D (second and third trimesters)—fetal injury; lactation • Allergy to aliskiren • Hyperkalemia, hypercalcemia, or in dehydration • Children younger than 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older adults • Patients taking any prescribed drug that increases potassium levels, such as ACE inhibitors • Patients with low creatinine clearance • Diabetes mellitus • History of angioedema • Respiratory disorders or history of airway surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other antihypertensive drugs have additive effect with aliskiren • ACE inhibitors, ARBs, and potassium-sparing diuretics, which increase potassium levels, increasing risk for hyperkalemia • Decreases blood level of furosemide • Atorvastatin (Lipitor) and ketoconazole increase blood levels • Irbesartan (Avapro) decreases blood levels