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Atacand

Generic Name: candesartan (kan de SAR tan)
Brand Names: *Atacand*

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What is Atacand?

Atacand is in a group of drugs called angiotensin II receptor antagonists. It keeps blood vessels from narrowing, which lowers blood pressure and improves blood flow.

Atacand is used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). It is sometimes given together with other blood pressure medications.

Atacand is also used to treat kidney problems caused by type 2 (not insulin-dependent) diabetes. It may also be used to treat heart failure in certain patients.

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

Important information about Atacand

Do not use Atacand without telling your doctor if you are pregnant. Atacand may cause injury and even death to the unborn baby if you take it during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. Use an effective [form of birth control](#). Stop using this medication and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant during treatment. You should not use Atacand if you are allergic to candesartan. Avoid drinking alcohol. It can lower your blood pressure and may increase some of the side effects of Atacand. Do not use

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10+ years

Approval History

FDA approved 1998

D

Pregnancy Category

Positive evidence of risk

Rx

Availability

Prescription only

N/A

CSA Schedule

Not a controlled drug

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potassium supplements or salt substitutes while you are taking Atacand, unless your doctor has told you to.

To be sure this medication is helping your condition, your blood pressure will need to be checked on a regular basis. Do not miss any scheduled appointments.

Keep using this medication even if you feel fine. High blood pressure often has no symptoms.

In rare cases, Atacand can cause a condition that results in the breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, leading to kidney failure. Call your doctor right away if you have muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness especially if you also have fever, nausea or vomiting, and dark colored urine.

Before taking Atacand

You should not use Atacand if you are allergic to candesartan.

Before using Atacand, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs, or if you have:

- kidney disease;
- liver disease;
- congestive heart failure;
- an electrolyte imbalance; or
- if you are dehydrated.

If you have any of these conditions, you may need a dose adjustment or special tests to safely take this medication.

FDA pregnancy category D. Atacand can cause harm to an unborn baby. Atacand may cause injury and even death to the unborn baby if you take it during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. Do not use Atacand without your doctor's consent if you are pregnant. Use an effective form of [birth control](#). Stop using this medication and tell your doctor right away if you become pregnant during treatment. It is not known whether Atacand passes into breast milk or if it could harm a nursing baby. Do not use this medication without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

See also: [Atacand pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (in more detail)

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How should I take Atacand?

Take Atacand exactly as it was prescribed for you. Do not take the medication in larger amounts, or take it for longer than recommended by your doctor. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results from this medication.

You may take Atacand with or without [food](#).



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To be sure this medication is helping your condition, your blood pressure will need to be checked on a regular basis. Do not miss any scheduled appointments.

It may take 2 to 4 weeks of using this medicine before your blood pressure is under control. For best results, keep using the medication as directed. Talk with your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 4 weeks of treatment.

Keep using this medication even if you feel fine. High blood pressure often has no symptoms.

If you need to have any type of surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using Atacand. You may need to stop using the medicine for a short time. Store Atacand at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

See also: [Atacand dosage](#) (in more detail)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the medicine at the next regularly scheduled time. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention if you think you have used too much of this medicine. Overdose symptoms may include fast or slow heartbeat, dizziness, or feeling like you might pass out.

What should I avoid while taking Atacand?

Avoid drinking alcohol. It can lower your blood pressure and may increase some of the side effects of Atacand. Do not use potassium supplements or salt substitutes while you are taking Atacand, unless your doctor has told you to. Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy. Get up slowly and steady yourself to prevent a fall.

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Atacand side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. In rare cases, Atacand can cause a condition that results in the breakdown of skeletal muscle tissue, leading to kidney failure. Call your doctor right away if you have muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness especially if you also have fever, nausea or vomiting, and dark colored urine.

Call your doctor at once if you have any other serious side effects such as:

- feeling like you might pass out;
- chest pain;

higher chance of survival than those taking losartan ...

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- swelling in your hands or feet; or
- slow heart rate, weak pulse, tingly feeling.

Less serious Atacand side effects may include:

- runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, cough;
- back pain;
- joint pain;
- stomach pain, diarrhea;
- headache, dizziness; or
- tired feeling.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Tell your doctor about any unusual or bothersome side effect. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

See also: [Atacand side effects](#) (in more detail)

What other drugs will affect Atacand?

Before taking Atacand, tell your doctor if you are using any of the following drugs:

- a diuretic (water pill); or
- lithium (Eskalith, LithoBid, Lithonate).

This list is not complete and there may be other drugs that can interact with Atacand. Tell your doctor about all the prescription and over-the-counter medications you use. This includes vitamins, minerals, herbal products, and drugs prescribed by other doctors. Do not start using a new medication without telling your doctor.

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- Your pharmacist can provide more information about Atacand.

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