

Norvasc® (Amlodipine) 2.5 mg, 5 mg and 10 mg tablets

What is it used for?

This medication is typically used to treat high blood pressure or prevent angina (chest pain). This medication starts working within a few hours but its maximal effects are seen after a few weeks of use. You may check how it works for you by measuring your blood pressure regularly.

How do I use this medication?

This medication is typically used once a day in the morning, but your doctor may have suggested a different schedule for you. It can be taken with or without food. It should be taken regularly to maintain its beneficial effects which include: preventing strokes, heart attacks and kidney disease. If you stop your medication by yourself, you may not feel anything but the beneficial effects will be lost.

What are the possible side effects?

In addition to its desired action, this medication may cause some side effects including:

- Peripheral edema (swelling of the legs)
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea
- Palpitations
- Skin flushing
- Dizziness

Each person reacts differently to a treatment. If you think this medication is causing you side effects, whether they are mentioned here or not, talk to your pharmacist, nurse or doctor. They could help determine if the medication is the source of the problem, and help you manage the situation if needed.

What should I pay special attention to?

If your blood pressure drops too much, then you may feel dizzy especially when getting up from a lying or sitting position. During the first week of treatment, avoid getting up abruptly. Take your time to sit for a few minutes prior to standing. If you notice a lot of swelling of your legs after starting this drug, do not stop taking it on your own, discuss it with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

How do I store this medication?

This product must be stored at room temperature, in a safe place, out of the reach of children. Do not expose to excessive heat, moisture or direct sunlight. Protect this medication from light.

General information

This medication can interact with other medication or supplements that you may be taking. Some interactions can cause serious problems. This is why it is important to tell your pharmacist, nurse or doctor:

- all medications you are taking, prescription and non-prescription, including vitamins, natural

- products and supplements,
- if you have allergies to any medications,
- if you smoke,
- and for women, if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

You can read more about this medication by visiting <http://www.drugs.com/norvasc.html>

Disclaimer

This information should not be considered as medical advice. It is not to be used in place of a visit with a doctor, nurse or other healthcare professional. If you have questions about your individual medical situation, please consult with your healthcare professional.

References

- Rx Vigilance – Amlodipine August 2009
- Rx Vigilance – Calcium-channel blockers August 2009
- Micromedex @ <http://www.micromedex.com> – Amlodipine August 2009