

INFORMATION FOR THE CONSUMER

For Patients Taking ACCUPRIL

This summary contains important information about **ACCUPRIL**. It is not meant to take the place of your doctor's instructions. Please read this information carefully before you begin treatment with **ACCUPRIL** and keep it for future reference, as you may need to read it again. This summary does not contain all the information on **ACCUPRIL** that you may need. Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you do not understand any of this information or if you want to know more about **ACCUPRIL**. This medicine has been prescribed to you personally and you should not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

Hypertension

Your doctor has prescribed ACCUPRIL (quinapril hydrochloride) for the treatment of your hypertension. Hypertension is the medical term for high blood pressure. When blood flows through the blood vessels, it pushes against their walls, almost like water pushing against the sides of a hose. Blood pressure is like that "push". When blood pressure is high (like the water pressure in a hose when the nozzle is partially shut), damage can occur to the heart and blood vessels.

Although you may not feel any symptoms for years, hypertension can lead to stroke, heart attack, kidney disease and other serious conditions.

Congestive Heart Failure

Your doctor has prescribed ACCUPRIL (quinapril hydrochloride) for the treatment of congestive heart failure. Congestive heart failure simply means that your heart has lost its ability to pump blood as well as it should. Most people with congestive heart failure experience the following symptoms to varying degrees: shortness of breath, swelling and fatigue. Although congestive

heart failure is a serious condition, your symptoms and overall health can be greatly improved with proper medical care and active participation in a well-managed treatment plan.

What it does:

ACCUPRIL belongs to a group of medications called angiotensin converting enzymes (ACE) inhibitors.

ACCUPRIL opens blood vessels to reduce blood pressure, like the way opening a hose reduces water pressure. It is not however a cure. You may need more than just one medication to reduce blood pressure. Discussing your lifestyle with your doctor will help identify the risk factors and how to minimize them.

When it should NOT be used:

ACCUPRIL should NOT be used if you are possibly allergic to this product, including any of its nonmedicinal ingredients (see list below). Also, ACCUPRIL should not be used if you have ever experienced a potentially serious side effect called angioedema while taking a similar medication for your blood pressure. Angioedema is characterized by swollen mouth, lips tongue, eyes, throat or difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

ACCUPRIL should NOT be used if you are pregnant, intend to become pregnant, or of childbearing age and you are not using proper contraceptive protection.

What the medicinal ingredient is:

The medicinal ingredient of ACCUPRIL is called quinapril hydrochloride.

What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

Aside from the medicinal ingredient, ACCUPRIL also contains candelilla wax, crospovidone, gelatin, lactose, magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, synthetic red iron oxide, titanium dioxide, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and polyethylene glycol.

What dosage form it comes in:

ACCUPRIL is available as tablets of 5 mg, 10 mg, 20 mg or 40 mg.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warning and Precautions

ACCUPRIL should not be used during pregnancy. If you discover that you are pregnant while taking **ACCUPRIL**, stop the medication and please contact your physician as soon as possible.

Important Information You Need to Tell Your Doctor Before You Start Taking ACCUPRIL

Before you use ACCUPRIL or during its use, it is important that you inform your doctor or your pharmacist of the following:

- Are you currently taking other medications? Some drugs may reduce the effectiveness of ACCUPRIL or conversely, ACCUPRIL may reduce the effectiveness of other drugs. It is especially important that your doctor knows if you are taking diuretics (water pills) which may add to the blood pressure lowering effect to ACCUPRIL. You should also not be taking salt substitutes without the advice of your doctor.
- Do you suffer from any conditions other than hypertension? The presence of other medical problems may affect the use of ACCUPRIL. Make sure you tell your doctor if you have any other medical problems, especially if you have diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, heart or blood vessel disease.
- **Are you pregnant, breast-feeding or thinking of becoming pregnant?** Taking ACCUPRIL during pregnancy can cause injury and even death to your developing fetus. This medicine should not be used by women who are pregnant, intend to become pregnant, or could become pregnant and who are not using adequate contraceptive measures. If you become pregnant while taking ACCUPRIL, stop the medication and report to your doctor as

soon as possible. It is possible that ACCUPRIL passes into breast milk. You should not breast-feed while taking ACCUPRIL.

- **Are you possibly allergic to ACCUPRIL, including one of its nonmedicinal ingredients (listed above)?**
- **Have you ever experienced an abnormal reaction (characterized by swollen mouth, lips, tongue, eyes, throat or difficulty in swallowing or breathing) while taking a similar medication to control your blood pressure or any other medication?**
- If you have to undergo any dental or other surgery, the dentist or physician in charge should be informed that you are taking this medication.
- Discuss your consumption of alcoholic beverages with your doctor. Alcohol consumption may alter your blood pressure and/or increase the possibility of dizziness or fainting.
- If you are being treated for other conditions by other doctors, keep them all informed of the fact that you are taking ACCUPRIL.
- Dizziness or lightheadedness may occur, particularly after the first few doses of this medication, or during periods of excessive sweating, vomiting or diarrhea. Make sure you know how you react to this medicine before you drive, operate machinery, or do anything requiring you to be alert.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Drugs that may affect the way ACCUPRIL works include: diuretics (water pills), salt substitutes, potassium supplements, lithium, tetracycline, antidiabetic drugs and some other medications used to treat hypertension or heart problems.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Usual Dose:

The usual starting dose of ACCUPRIL is 5, 10 or 20 mg once daily. Your doctor will then adjust your dose according to your blood pressure response. Use this drug only as directed by your doctor.

Overdose:

In cases of accidental overdose, contact your doctor or your local health services immediately.

Missed Dose

If a dose is missed, do NOT try to make up the missed dose. Skip the missed dose and continue with the next scheduled dose. Do NOT double doses.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Along with its intended action, any medication, including ACCUPRIL, may cause side effects. These include headache, dizziness, fatigue, coughing, rhinitis (inflammation inside the nose), nausea and/or vomiting, diarrhea, or abdominal pain. Chances are that some of these side effects will disappear once your system becomes used to the medication. If they persist or are bothersome, discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist.

Especially during the first few days of ACCUPRIL therapy, your blood pressure may drop too low and you may experience a sense of lightheadedness. In rare occasions, fainting can occur. If fainting occurs, stop taking the drug and call your local health services. If these symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

While taking ACCUPRIL, if you are suffering from excessive sweating, vomiting or diarrhea, your blood pressure may drop too low. Consult your doctor.

A rare, but potentially more serious condition called angioedema, may occur, especially following the first dose of ACCUPRIL. **If you experience any symptoms suggesting angioedema, such as swelling of the face, extremities, eyes, lips, tongue, difficulty in swallowing or breathing, you should immediately stop taking ACCUPRIL and consult your local health services immediately.** You should also inform your doctor if you experience a decrease in your amount of urine; **if you stop urinating completely, you should immediately stop taking ACCUPRIL and consult with your local health services immediately.**

After you have started taking ACCUPRIL, it is important that you tell your doctor at once about any unexplained symptom you may experience during therapy. Examples of this are unexplained fever, sore throat, rash itching, abdominal pain, nausea or vomiting, loss of appetite or jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes). As well, you should contact your doctor if you experience viral-like or flu-like symptoms in the first weeks to months of therapy (such as fever, malaise, muscle pain, rash or sore and enlarged lymph nodes (glands which generally occur in clusters in the neck, armpits or groin)).

This is not a complete list of side effects. If you have any unexpected effects while taking this drug, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Store ACCUPRIL at controlled room temperature, between 15 - 30°C. Protect from moisture. Keep in a well-closed container.

Keep this drug out of the reach of children.