

Common Heart Failure Medications You May Be Prescribed

| MEDICATION | HOW IT WORKS | SIDE EFFECTS | OTHER INFORMATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Angiotensin converting enzyme Inhibitor (ACE) Angiotensin receptor Blocker (ARB) Angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARNI) • Lisinopril (PRINIVIL) (ZESTRIL) • Enalapril (VASOTEC) • Losartan (COZAAR) • Candesartan (ATACAND) • Valsartan (DIOVAN) • Valsartan/sacubitril (ENTRESTO) | Decreases how hard the heart must work by opening the blood vessels Improves weakened heart muscle and minimizes heart scarring Protect kidneys in patients with diabetes Treats high blood pressure Decreases HF hospitalizations and risk of death from HF | Dizziness especially with standing or sitting quickly Dry cough (ACE only) Abnormal taste Swelling of lips or throat | Avoid alcohol Lab work to monitor kidney function and potassium level Do not use salt substitutes with this medication can cause elevated potassium level |
| Beta Blockers Metoprolol Succinate (TOPROL XL) Carvedilol (COREG) Bisoprolol (ZEBETA) | Blocks harmful stress hormones ("fight or flight" or adrenalin) that worsen heart failure Help control blood pressure and slows how fast the heart beats Prevent heart attacks Improved survival benefit Improves weakened heart muscle Helps with angina/chest pain symptoms Treats mood/neurological conditions | Tiredness – should improve with time Fluid retention Wheezing or shortness of breath Low blood pressure Slow heart rate Dizziness Depression Change in sexual desire | Do not stop suddenly Do not run out of this medicine Take missed doses as soon as possible Weigh yourself daily |
| Aldosterone Antagonists Spironolactone (ALDACTONE)(CAROSPIR) (SPIROZONE) Eplerenone (INSPRA) | Blocks the harmful effects of aldosterone (hormone that worsens heart failure) Mildly increases urination to help reduce swelling Decreases HF hospitalizations and death from HF | Breast enlargement or tenderness Increased potassium levels | Labs work to monitor kidney function and potassium level Do not use salt substitutes with this medication |



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| Sodium Glucose Co- Transporter 2 (SGLT2) • Empagliflozin (JARDIANCE) • Dapagliflozin (FARXIGA) | Reduces HF hospitalizations for diabetic and non-diabetic patients Protects kidneys Helps to lower blood sugar | Urinary irritation or infection Low blood sugars if diabetic | Drink plenty of fluids Take in the morning Caution with standing up too quickly |
| Cardiovascular Agent Ivabradine (CORLANOR) | Slows how fast your heart beats Reduces HF hospitalizations Helps beta blockers work better | Low heart rate (heart beats slower) Temporary brightness of vision | If you miss dose, skip and resume dosing |
| Cardiac Glycosides • Digoxin (DIGITALIS) (LANOXIN) (DIGITEK) | Makes the heart beat stronger Slows heart rate Help corrects hormonal levels that may be harmful for HF Decreases HF hospitalizations | • Dizziness • Headache | Too much may cause nausea, vomiting, blurred or colored vision, abnormal heart rhythm, palpitations, or black outs. Monitor drug level with lab work to evaluate kidney function and potassium level-goal blood level <1.0) |
| Nitrate/Antianginal Isosorbide Dinitrate (ISORDIL) Isosorbide Mononitrate (IMDUR) OTHER - Antianginal: Ranolazine (RANEXA) Antihypertensive/ Peripheral Vasodilator Hydralazine (APRESREX) (APRESOLINE) (ADROLAZINE) | Decreases how hard the heart must work by opening the blood vessels Helps reduce the risk of death from HF in African Americans Use hydralazine & nitrate in combination when ACE/ ARB/ARNI contraindicated | Headaches Dizziness Nausea/Vomiting Lightheaded | Headaches can be helped with acetaminophen or gradual increase of dose over a couple weeks Avoid dehydration Get up slowly from bed or chain to decrease dizziness |
| Diuretics Furosemide (LASIX) Torsemide (DEMADEX) Bumetanide (BUMEX) Metolazone (ZAROXOLYN) THIAZIDE DIURETIC – CAUTIOUS USE | Helps your body get rid of extra fluid by increasing urination. Less fluid in your lungs makes it easier to breath and reduces swelling in your body Provides some symptom relief, but alone does not improve heart failure | Dizziness Low blood pressures | Problems with low potassium levels/leg cramps Lab work to evaluate kidney function and potassium levels Dehydration – do daily weights report weight losses or weight gains of 2 pounds in 24 hours or 5 pounds in 1 week Minimize sodium intake to 2 grams a day or less than 100mg/serving Take before 5pm every day to help reduce the need to get out of bed to urinate |