



What are ACE Inhibitors?

“ACE inhibitors” are medications that block the natural body process that causes blood vessels to constrict. Blocking this process relaxes and widens blood vessels, lowers blood pressure and decreases the work your heart has to do.

What are ARBs?

ARBs (angiotensin receptor blockers) are medications that block a different, but similar, natural process that causes blood vessels to constrict.

Why are ACE inhibitors the first choice over ARBs for most conditions?

There is more scientific knowledge and experience with ACE inhibitors. For all of the conditions listed below, ARB’s should only be used if treatment is unsuccessful with an ACE inhibitor.

What conditions should ACE inhibitors medications be used for?

- **High blood pressure:** ACE inhibitors are one of the best options for treating high blood pressure.
- **Heart failure and heart attack:** ACE inhibitors may prevent damage to the heart when given shortly after a heart attack.
- **Coronary artery disease:** ACE inhibitors can help prevent heart attacks for people with coronary artery disease.
- **Diabetes:** ACE Inhibitors may prevent kidney damage for people with diabetes who have heart conditions or high blood pressure.

What are my ACE Inhibitor options?

You have the following choices, which vary in cost but have similar clinical benefits.

Your options include:

Generic Medications: ~\$4 - 46*

benazepril (Lotensin [®])	moexipril (Univasc [®])
captopril (Capoten [®])	perindopril (Aceon [®])
enalapril (Vasotec [®])	quinapril (Accupril [®])
fosinopril (Monopril [®])	ramipril (Altace [®])
lisinopril (Zestril, Prinivil [®])	trandolaprol (Mavik [®])

*Approximate cost estimates based on a 30-day supply. Actual prices may vary depending on your pharmacy and the amount or strength of medication dispensed. Brand names in () are non-formulary and are listed for your reference only.

Are there side effects for ACE inhibitors?

The most common side effect from ACE inhibitors is a dry, persistent cough. Sometimes it just goes away, but if a cough becomes bothersome please talk to your doctor about other options.

When should an ARB be used?

ARBs may be used if a patient develops a dry, persistent cough or does not respond well to ACE inhibitor treatment.

What are my ARB options?

Your options include:

Generic Medications:

No generics available.

Brand Medications: ~\$69 - 80*

Benicar®
Benicar HCT®
Micardis®
Micardis HCT®

Non-Preferred Brands: ~\$74 – 90*

Atacand®
Avapro®
Cozaar®
Diovan®
Teveten®

*Approximate cost estimates based on a 30-day supply. Actual prices may vary depending on your pharmacy and the amount or strength of medication dispensed.

THE BOTTOM LINE

ACE inhibitors are the first choice over ARBs because they have a long track record and more evidence to support their use. They also cost less than ARBs. **Generic ACE inhibitors are your best value.**

Note: Since many medication options are available, our physicians and pharmacists developed this to provide you with information about the available alternatives, as well as potential advantages and lack of advantages of the various products. This medication summary was developed based upon an evaluation of information from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), scientific studies, and input from practicing doctors and specialists.



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