PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Amlodipine

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: US

Katerzia; Norliqva; Norvasc; Sdamlo

Brand Names: Canada

ACH-Amlodipine; AG-AmLODIPine; APO-AmLODIPine; Auro-AmLODIPine; BIO-AmLODIPine; JAMP-AmLODIPine; M-Amlodipine; Mar-AmLODIPine; MINT-AmLODIPine; MYLAN-AmLODIPine; NB-Amlodipine; Norvasc; NRA-Amlodipine; PDP-Amlodipine; PHARMA-AmLODIPine; PMS-AmLODIPine; PRZ-Amlodipine; RIVA-AmLODIPine; SANDOZ AmLODIPine; SANDOZ-AmLODIPine; TARO-Amlodipine; TEVA AmLODIPine

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat high blood pressure.
- It is used to treat some types of chest pain (angina).
- It is used in some people to lower the chance of having to go to the hospital for chest pain (angina) and needing certain heart procedures.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.

This drug may interact with other drugs or health problems.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

For all uses of this drug:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert until you see how this drug affects you.
- To lower the chance of feeling dizzy or passing out, rise slowly if you have been sitting or lying down. Be careful going up and down stairs.
- Check your blood pressure as you have been told.
- It is rare, but chest pain that is new or worse can happen after this drug is first started or after the dose is raised. Heart attack can also happen. The risk may be greater in people who have very bad heart blood vessel disease. Talk with the doctor.
- If you are taking this drug and have high blood pressure, talk with your doctor before using OTC products that may raise blood pressure. These include cough or cold drugs, diet pills, stimulants, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) like ibuprofen or naproxen, and some natural products or aids.
- Talk with your doctor before you drink alcohol.
- Liver problems have happened with this drug. Sometimes, liver problems have needed to be treated in the hospital. Talk with the doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.

- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

For chest pain:

- Do not use this drug to treat sudden chest pain. It will not help. Talk with your doctor.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Chest pain that is new or worse.
- Fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Swelling.
- Stiff muscles, shakiness, or muscle movements that are not normal.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Feeling dizzy, sleepy, tired, or weak.
- Flushing.
- Upset stomach.
- Stomach pain.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

All products:

- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Take with or without food.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

All liquid products:

- Measure liquid doses carefully. Use the measuring device that comes with this drug. If there is none, ask the pharmacist for a device to measure this drug.

Liquid (suspension):

- Shake well before use.

Solution (Sdamlo):

- Each container is for one use only. Be sure you know how to mix this drug. If you have questions, talk with your pharmacist.
- To mix this drug, remove the cap from the container and peel off the seal. Add 15 mL water. Wait 60 seconds for this drug to dissolve. You will not need to shake it. Take this drug right away or within 60 minutes after mixing. If this drug is not taken within 60 minutes after mixing, throw it away. After taking this drug, rinse the container with 15 mL water 1 or 2 times and drink.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it has been 12 hours or more since the missed dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

Tablets:

- Store at room temperature protected from light. Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

Liquid (solution):

- Store in the original container at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.

Liquid (suspension):

- Store in a refrigerator. Do not freeze.
- Protect from heat and light.

All products:

- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer

This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete

information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-effectiveness-terms.

Last Reviewed Date

2026-01-28

Copyright

© 2026 UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates and/or licensors. All rights reserved.

If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

Amlodipine - Last updated on December 12, 2022
All rights owned and reserved by Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center