



Enalapril: Information for families

This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) describes how this medicine is given and some of its possible side effects. Each person reacts differently to medicines so your child will not necessarily experience every side effect mentioned. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist or telephone one of the contact numbers of this information sheet.

What is it for?

Enalapril belongs to a group of drugs called ACE inhibitors. They are used in children with heart problems to lower blood pressure and help reduce the workload of the heart.

Children starting on enalapril will need their blood pressure checking to make sure the dose is tolerated. enalapril works by causing the small arteries to relax, reducing blood pressure and allowing the heart to work more effectively.

- Changes in sense of taste (usually only for a short time).
- Dry cough, let your doctor know if you develop a persistent dry cough.
- Nausea (feeling sick).
- Potassium levels in the blood can be affected. This will need to be checked routinely along with kidney function.

If you are concerned about any of these side effects, please discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

How is it given?

Enalapril is usually given once or twice a day.

It is available as tablets in the following strengths: 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg and 20mg. Tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water to give to younger children using the oral syringe provided.

What are the side effects?

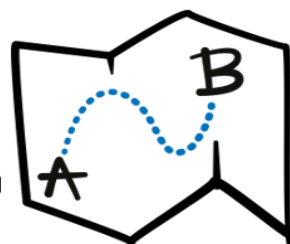
Enalapril is usually well tolerated, but possible side effects include:

- Low blood pressure: dizziness sometimes occurs when starting the medicine or after the dose has been increased. If your child feels dizzy, lying down will help.
- Skin rashes

Who should not take enalapril (contraindications)?

People with the following conditions should discuss taking enalapril with their doctor:

- Pregnant or could be pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breast-feeding
- Hereditary angioedema, a condition that causes inflammation and swelling of various parts of the body such as the lips, tongue, skin, intestines
- Kidney disease



Enalapril and other medications

Some medicines can interact with enalapril.

Always check with your prescriber or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicines, including herbal or complementary medicines.

The following medicines are known to react with enalapril:

- Furosemide, digoxin, amiloride, spironolactone and potassium supplements: These medicines are often prescribed alongside enalapril. They affect the potassium level in the body so a blood test to check the potassium level may be needed if a medicine is added, increased or stopped.
- Medicines that lower the blood pressure, such as calcium channel blockers, angiotensin II blockers and beta-blockers: These are sometimes prescribed alongside enalapril. They have an additional effect on blood pressure. If dizziness or fainting occurs, please tell us.
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as diclofenac and ibuprofen: Kidney function will

need to be monitored if these medicines are taken with enalapril.

- Lithium: lithium levels in the body may be increased if taken with enalapril.

Important

- Keep medicines in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- Keep medicines in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight and away from heat.
- If your doctor decides to stop treatment with enalapril, return any unused medicine to the pharmacist. Do not flush down the toilet or throw it away.
- If you forget to give your child a dose, give it as soon as you remember. Do not give a double dose if it is already time to give the next one.
- If your child vomits after taking the medicine, do not give a double dose.
- Your family doctor (GP) will need to give you a repeat prescription for enalapril.
- Some medicines will need to be ordered by your local pharmacist- ask your GP for another prescription with enough time (when you have about 2 weeks left of medicine) to make sure you do not run out.

For further information please contact:

Medicines Information: 020 7829 8608 or via the Medications page on the MyGOSH app (available Monday – Friday, 9am - 5pm)

Cardiology team via GOSH switchboard: 020 7405 9200 or via the MyGOSH app

Disclaimer

Please read this information sheet from GOSH alongside the patient information leaflet (PIL) provided by the manufacturer. If you do not have a copy of the manufacturer's patient information leaflet please talk to your pharmacist. A few products do not have a marketing authorisation (licence) as a medicine and therefore there is no PIL. For children in particular, there may be conflicts of information between the manufacturer's patient information leaflet (PIL) and guidance provided by GOSH and other healthcare providers. For example, some manufacturers may recommend, in the patient information leaflet, that a medicine is not given to children aged under 12 years. In most cases, this is because the manufacturer will recruit adults to clinical trials in the first instance and therefore the initial marketing authorisation (licence) only covers adults and older children.

For new medicines, the manufacturer then has to recruit children and newborns into trials (unless the medicine is not going to be used in children and newborns) and subsequently amend the PIL with the approved information. Older medicines may have been used effectively for many years in children without problems but the manufacturer has not been required to collect data and amend the licence. This does not mean that it is unsafe for children and young people to be prescribed such a medicine 'off-licence/off-label'. However, if you are concerned about any conflicts of information, please discuss with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

