

About your medication

CAPTOPRIL

(CAPOTEN[®], ACENORM[®] 12.5mg,
25mg and 50mg tablets,
CAPOTEN[®] 5mg/mL mixture)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS CAPTOPRIL?

Captopril is from a class of medicines called angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors). ACE inhibitors lower blood pressure and improve the pumping of the heart. Captopril is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

In children, Captopril is used to treat high blood pressure, or to improve the function of the heart after surgery or in heart failure.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medicine is given only as directed and not given to other people.

Captopril is usually given three times a day, approximately every eight hours.

Captopril is best given on an empty stomach, half an hour before food, to increase effectiveness.

Usually your child will be given a test dose of Captopril under medical supervision before commencing regular dosing. This is to ensure that Captopril doesn't cause very low blood pressure.

The dose of Captopril is started low and slowly increased until it is effective; it may take several days before the medicine reaches its maximum effect.

There is a Captopril mixture available for giving small doses to children; it is very important the dose is measure accurately using an oral syringe.

When you open a bottle of Captopril there will be a hissing sound as gas escapes from the bottle; this is normal and is nothing to be alarmed about.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medicine it can be given as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for your child's next dose, wait until the next dose is due. **Do not double-up on any doses.**

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep Captopril locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the tablets or mixture in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

Once open, the mixture only lasts 28 days. Record the date of opening on the bottle and discard any remaining mixture after 28 days.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using Captopril with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop. This is important for

- Other medicines that lower blood pressure, including diuretics.
- Drugs that can affect the kidneys
- Potassium supplements

This list is not complete. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. caffeine in soft drinks).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Do not give your child potassium supplements while they are taking captopril, as captopril can increase the potassium levels.
- It is important not to stop using captopril unless advised to do so by your child's doctor.
- Your child may experience dizziness or drowsiness while taking captopril. Care should be taken with activities such as riding bikes or climbing trees until you know how your child is affected.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking captopril. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- Dizziness or light headedness
- Drowsiness
- Dry cough
- Headache or tiredness
- Flushing

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- Decreased urination
- Irregular heartbeat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Swollen mouth, lips or face
- Swollen hands or feet.
- Itchy skin or rash

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



**The Royal Children's
Hospital Melbourne**

***Your or Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your/your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your/your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – JANUARY 2012
