

# Cardiac Medication Side Effects

Your doctor has recommended medication to help you get better. Many medications can cause **side effects** (unplanned reactions in the body). The table below lists medication names next to their side effects. **If you have any of the serious side effects listed for your medication, contact your doctor right away.**

Other serious side effects are also possible. If you have symptoms not listed here or any concerns about your medications, talk to your medical team.

NOTE: All medications have the potential to cause an allergic reaction. Get medical help right away if you:

- Have difficulty breathing
- Get a rash or hives
- Have any of the serious side effects listed below



Type of medication	Name of medication generic (Brand)	What it is used for	Common side effects	Serious side effects (Contact physician Immediately)
Beta blocker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• carvedilol (Coreg)</li> <li>• metoprolol (Lopressor)</li> <li>• metoprolol XL (Toprol XL)</li> </ul>	Lower blood pressure and heart rate; reduce heart remodeling due to heart failure	Dizziness, fatigue, decreased blood pressure	Large rash, asthma (rare)
ARB / ACEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enalapril (Vasotec)</li> <li>• lisinopril (Prinivil/Zestril)</li> <li>• ramipril (Altace)</li> </ul>	Lower blood pressure; reduce heart remodeling due to heart failure	Dry cough, dizziness, headache, decreased blood pressure	Swelling of tongue or lips
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• losartan (Cozaar)</li> <li>• valsartan (Diovan)</li> </ul>			
Antiplatelet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aspirin</li> </ul>	Prevent clot formation and stent blockage	Minor bleeding, headache, bruising *Shortness of breath	Large rash, major bleeding
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clopidogrel (Plavix)</li> <li>• prasugrel (Effient)</li> <li>• ticagrelor (Brilinta)*</li> </ul>			
Statin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rosuvastatin (Crestor)</li> <li>• atorvastatin (Lipitor)</li> <li>• simvastatin (Zocor)</li> <li>• pravastatin (Pravachol)</li> </ul>	Stabilize plaques and lower cholesterol	Nausea, headache, constipation	Large muscle pain (rhabdomyolysis)

Definitions: ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker; ACEI: angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; DVT: deep vein thrombosis; PE: pulmonary embolism; AFib: atrial fibrillation

Type of medication	Name of medication generic (Brand)	What it is used for	Common side effects	Serious side effects (Contact physician immediately)
Anticoagulant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• heparin</li> <li>• enoxaparin (<b>Lovenox</b>)</li> </ul>	Prevent clot formation in patients with atrial fibrillation	Minor bleeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gums</li> <li>• Nosebleeds</li> <li>• Bruises on skin</li> </ul>	Major bleeding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black or tarry stools</li> <li>• Uncontrollable bleeding</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• warfarin (<b>Coumadin</b>)</li> <li>• dabigatran (<b>Pradaxa</b>)</li> <li>• rivaroxaban (<b>Xarelto</b>)</li> <li>• apixaban (<b>Eliquis</b>)</li> <li>• edoxaban (<b>Savaysa</b>)</li> </ul>	Treat blood clots such as DVT and PE		
Vasopressors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• norepinephrine (<b>Levophed</b>)</li> <li>• epinephrine/adrenaline</li> <li>• phenylephrine (<b>Neo-Synephrine</b>)</li> </ul>	Treat severe low blood pressure or persistent shock after adequate fluid replacement	Anxiety, headache, insomnia, change in urine (pee) output	Arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeat (dopamine more likely to cause this than norepinephrine), Darkening of arms, legs, finger, or toes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dopamine</li> </ul>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vasopressin (<b>Pitressin</b>)</li> </ul>			
Diuretic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spironolactone (<b>Aldactone</b>)</li> </ul>	Treat heart failure and lower blood pressure	Increased urinary frequency, nausea, loss of appetite, dizziness	Large rash Gynecomastia (breast tissue increases in size)
Antiarrhythmics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amiodarone (<b>Cordarone</b>)</li> </ul>	Treat heart arrhythmias, including AFib	Nausea, anorexia, sensitivity to light	Shortness of breath, blurred vision, nerve pain, liver dysfunction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• diltiazem (<b>Cardizem</b>)</li> </ul>		Edema, headache	Decreased blood pressure and heart rate, heart block. Worsening heart failure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sotalol (<b>Betapace</b>)</li> </ul>		Fatigue, dizziness, decreased heart rate	
Insulin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• glargine (<b>Lantus</b>) — long-acting</li> <li>• lispro (<b>Humalog</b>) — rapid-acting</li> <li>• regular (<b>Humulin R</b>) — short-acting</li> </ul>	Lower blood glucose (sugar)	Low blood glucose (hypoglycemia): sweating, shaking, dizziness, confusion, hunger, seizures	Low blood glucose (hypoglycemia): sweating, shaking, dizziness, confusion, hunger, nausea, seizures

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