

# Cardiac Medication Side Effects

**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 (<b>Coreg</b>)</li> <li>• metoprolol (<b>Lopressor</b>)</li> <li>• metoprolol XL (<b>Toprol XL</b>)</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 (<b>Vasotec</b>)</li> <li>• lisinopril (<b>Prinivil/Zestril</b>)</li> <li>• ramipril (<b>Altace</b>)</li> <li>• losartan (<b>Cozaar</b>)</li> <li>• valsartan (<b>Diovan</b>)</li> </ul>	Lower blood pressure; reduce heart remodeling due to heart failure	Dry cough, dizziness, headache, decreased blood pressure	Swelling of tongue or lips
CCB (Calcium Channel Blocker)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amlodipine (<b>Norvasc</b>)</li> <li>• nifedipine (<b>Procardia</b>)</li> <li>• nicardipine (<b>Cardene</b>)</li> </ul>	Lower blood pressure; reduce changes to your heart due to heart failure	Dizziness, swelling of arms or legs (edema), headache, reddening of the skin (flushing)	Loss of consciousness, heartbeat that does not feel normal
Antiplatelet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aspirin</li> <li>• clopidogrel (<b>Plavix</b>)</li> <li>• prasugrel (<b>Effient</b>)</li> <li>• ticagrelor (<b>Brilinta</b>)*</li> </ul>	Prevent clot formation and stent blockage	Minor bleeding, headache, bruising *Shortness of breath	Large rash, major bleeding (blood in urine, stool, or vomit)
Statin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rosuvastatin (<b>Crestor</b>)</li> <li>• atorvastatin (<b>Lipitor</b>)</li> <li>• simvastatin (<b>Zocor</b>)</li> <li>• pravastatin (<b>Pravachol</b>)</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		
Diuretic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• spironolactone (<b>Aldactone</b>)</li> <li>• bumetanide (<b>Bumex</b>)</li> <li>• furosemide (<b>Lasix</b>)</li> <li>• torsemide (<b>Demadex</b>)</li> <li>• hydrochlorothiazide</li> </ul>	Commonly used to treat heart failure, lower blood pressure, and rid body of excess fluids	Increased urinary frequency, nausea, loss of appetite, dizziness	Large rash, confusion, muscle pain, gynecomastia (breast tissue increases in size)
Inotrope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• milrinone</li> <li>• dobutamine</li> </ul>	Treat severely low blood pressure, treat heart failure	Anxiety, headache, nausea, inability to sleep	Irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath
Antiarrhythmics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• amiodarone (<b>Cordarone</b>)</li> <li>• dofetilide (<b>Tikosyn</b>)</li> <li>• digoxin (<b>Lanoxin</b>)</li> </ul>	Treat irregular heartbeats, including AFib	Nausea, loss of appetite, belly pain, 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	Worsening heart failure
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
Vasodilator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nitroglycerin (<b>Nitrostat</b>, <b>Nitro-Bid</b>)</li> <li>• isosorbide mononitrate (<b>Imdur</b>)</li> <li>• isosorbide dinitrate (<b>Isordil</b>)</li> <li>• hydralazine (<b>Apresoline</b>)</li> </ul>	Prevent and treat chest pain, heart failure, and high blood pressure	Headache, low blood pressure, lightheadedness	Blurry eyesight, pale skin, heartbeat that does not feel normal
<b>Definitions:</b> ARB: angiotensin receptor blocker; ACEI: angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; DVT: deep vein thrombosis; PE: pulmonary embolism; AFib: atrial fibrillation; CCB: calcium channel blocker				

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