

ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC

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BENAZEPRIL - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Lotensin

USES: This medication is an ACE inhibitor which prevents certain enzymes in the body from constricting blood vessels. This helps to lower blood pressure and makes the heart beat stronger. This medication is used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Try to take it at the same time each day so you remember to take it. Can be taken without regard to meals.

Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased.

It is important to continue taking this medication even if you feel well. Most people with high blood pressure do not feel sick.

Your doctor may schedule periodic visits to check your blood pressure and do laboratory work to see how effective the medication is.

SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, headache, drowsiness, fatigue or cough may occur the first few days as your body adjusts to benazepril. Notify your doctor if these effects continue or become bothersome.

To avoid dizziness or lightheadedness when rising from a seated or lying position, get up slowly. Also limit your intake of alcoholic beverages and avoid overheating which will aggravate these effects. Inform your doctor if you develop chest pain, an irregular heartbeat, difficulty breathing, skin rash, tingling or swelling of the hands or feet, mouth sores, sore throat or difficulty swallowing while taking this medication.

You may develop a dry cough while taking this medication. If it becomes bothersome, notify your doctor.

PRECAUTIONS: This medication has been known to cause fetal injury and possibly death when used during the second and third trimesters. If pregnancy is suspected, stop taking the drug immediately and notify your doctor. Since this drug appears in breast milk breast-feeding is not recommended.

This medicine may make you more prone to sunburn. Wear protective clothing and a sunscreen.

Limit your intake of alcohol and avoid overheating because this can aggravate dizziness and lightheadedness.

Be sure your doctor or dentist knows your complete medical

history especially if you are planning to undergo any medical or dental procedures.

Avoid "stimulant" drugs that may increase your heart rate such as decongestants or caffeine. Decongestants are commonly found in over-the-counter cough and cold medicine.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the medicine you use (both prescription and nonprescription) especially if you take lithium, potassium supplements, potassium sparing water pills or anti-inflammatory medicine (NSAID or Motrin-like drugs) because you may need to be monitored more closely.

NOTES: It is important to have your blood pressure checked regularly while taking this medication. Learn how to monitor your blood pressure. Discuss this with your doctor.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature away from sunlight and moisture.