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CAPTOPRIL - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Capoten

USES: Captopril belongs to a group of drugs called "ACE inhibitors." ACE inhibitors prevent 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), heart failure and kidney disease in certain diabetic patients.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Captopril should be taken on an empty stomach, one hour before or two hours after a meal.

Take this medication exactly as prescribed. Try to take it at the same time each day.

Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when the drug is abruptly 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.

SIDE EFFECTS: Dizziness, headache, diarrhea, constipation, loss of appetite, nausea, loss of taste, flushing or fatigue may occur the first several days as your body adjusts to the medication.

To avoid dizziness and 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, difficulty breathing, skin rash, tingling of the hands or feet, or yellowing of the skin or eyes while taking this medication.

This medication can increase sensitivity to sunlight.

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 it 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 moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.