

Irbesartan

Trade Name: Avapro®

Prescription Type: 75 mg, 150 mg, and 300 mg tablets

Drug Company: Sanofi Pharmaceuticals

Uses:

Irbesartan is an angiotensin II receptor blocker (ARB). It is prescribed to treat high blood pressure (hypertension). High blood pressure is often a result of poor kidney function. Poor kidney function leads to the release of aldosterone, which in turn causes the body to retain more salt and water. The increased amount of fluid will cause the blood pressure to rise.

Combinations of high blood pressure medication are often prescribed. Specifically, diuretics (water-reducing drugs) plus irbesartan help to decrease blood pressure.

How To Take This Medication:

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

Do not stop taking this drug without consulting your physician. Some conditions may get worse when the drug is suddenly stopped. Feeling well means the drug is working and is not a reason to stop.

Precautions:

Pregnant women should not take irbesartan. The drug is known to stop development of a growing fetus and can even result in death of the fetus when taken during the second and third trimester.

Patients who are experiencing anuria (lack of urine output) should not take irbesartan before consulting a physician.

Possible side effects are:

- viral infection
- fatigue
- abdominal pain
- headaches
- dizziness
- coughing

- diarrhea

This is not a complete list of side effects. If you experience an unusual symptom while taking irbesartan, consult your physician immediately.

Drug Interactions:

There are no significant drug interactions known to occur with irbesartan.

Note: It is important to have your blood pressure checked regularly. Learn how to monitor your own blood pressure and visit your doctor when you suspect changes in your blood pressure level.