

Telmisartan

Trade Name: Micardis®

Prescription Type: Oral tablets

Drug Company: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Uses:

Telmisartan 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 telmisartan 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 telmisartan. 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. Breast-feeding while taking telmisartan is not recommended.

Before taking this drug, tell your doctor if you have heart disease, liver disease, renal disorders, or if you have any allergies. Patients with renal impairment or renovascular disease should be closely monitored by their physicians and may not be suited for taking this drug.

Possible Side Effects:

- dizziness and lightheadedness, especially during the first few days
- fatigue
- headaches
- upper respiratory infection

- sinus swelling
- diarrhea
- sore throat

Many of the side effects listed above will lessen or totally go away the longer you take the drug.

Drug Interaction:

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

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.