



Captopril to improve heart function

This leaflet is for parents and carers about how to use this medicine in children. Our information sometimes differs from that provided by the manufacturers, because their information is usually aimed at adults. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

Name of medicine

Captopril

Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?

Captopril helps blood vessels to relax so that your child's heart can work better and improve the flow of blood around their body.

What is captopril available as?

Tablets: 12.5 mg, 25 mg, 50 mg

Liquid medicine: 5 mg in 5 mL or 25 mg in 5 mL

When should I give captopril?

Captopril is usually given **three times each day**. These times should be 4–6 hours apart, depending on when your child wakes up and goes to bed. For example, this could be between 7 and 8 am, at about midday, and between 7 and 8 pm.

Give the medicine at about the same time(s) each day so that this becomes part of your child's daily routine, which will help you to remember.

How much should I give?

Your health professional will work out the amount of captopril (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label. Your health professional may change the dose depending on how your child responds.



It is important that you follow your health professional's instructions about how much to give.

How should I give it?



Tablets should be swallowed with a glass of water or juice. Your child should not chew the tablets.

You can crush the tablet and mix it with a small amount of soft food such as yogurt, honey or jam. Make sure your child swallows it straight away, without chewing.



Liquid medicine: Shake the medicine well. Measure out the right amount using an oral syringe or a medicine spoon. You can get these from your pharmacist. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon as it will not give the right amount.

When should the medicine start to work?

The medicine will start to work straight away but it may take a while for your healthcare professional to work out the best dose for your child, so that their symptoms improve.

What if my child is sick (vomits)?

- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of captopril, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of captopril, you do not need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.
- If your child is sick again, seek advice from your child's healthcare team. They will decide what to do based on your child's condition and the medicine involved.

What if I forget to give it?

If you miss a dose, wait until the next normal dose. Do not give the missed dose.



Never give a double dose of captopril.

What if I think I have given too much?



It may be dangerous to give too much captopril.

If your child has any of the following symptoms, they may have had too much captopril:

- they feel faint, dizzy, or cold and sweaty
- they have a seizure or fit
- slow or rapid heart rate (they may feel as though their heart is racing or fluttering)
- they begin to breathe quickly or have trouble breathing.

Contact your health professional or take your child to hospital. Take the medicine container or packaging with you, even if it is empty. This will be useful to the doctor. Have the medicine or packaging with you if you telephone for advice.

Are there any possible side-effects?

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they cause effects that we don't want (side-effects).

Side-effects you must do something about



If your child gets a rash in the first 2 weeks of taking captopril, contact your health professional straight away, as they may be allergic to captopril. Do not give any more medicine until you have spoken to your health professional.



Sometimes captopril can affect the kidneys, if your child does not pass urine as normal contact your health professional.

Other side-effects you need to know about

- Your child may feel dizzy or light-headed when they stand up, or may even faint. Encourage them to stand up slowly, and to sit or lie down if they feel dizzy or lightheaded.
- Your child may get flushing (reddening), swelling or rashes on the face or neck.
- Your child may feel sick or be sick (vomit). Giving the medicine with some food may help. This effect should wear off after a few days as your child's body gets used to the medicine. If it is still a problem after a week, contact your doctor for advice.
- Your child may develop a dry cough that doesn't go away. If it becomes a problem, contact your health professional for advice, but continue to give captopril as normal.
- Your child may have a dry mouth, shortness of breath, disturbed sleep or hair loss.

There may sometimes be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your health professional. You can report any suspected side-effects to a UK safety scheme at mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

Can other medicines be given at the same time as captopril?

- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your health professional has told you not to.
- Captopril should not be taken with some medicines that you get on prescription. Tell your health professional and pharmacist about any other medicines your child is taking before giving captopril.
- Check with your health professional or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal and complementary medicines.

Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?

Treatment with captopril is usually started in hospital, so that its effects on your child can be monitored and the right dose worked out.

Your child will need to have their blood pressure measured regularly, to check how captopril is working, and will have blood tests to check their kidney function. It is important that you take your child to these appointments.

When you get a new prescription of liquid medicine, check what strength medicine you have and how much to give your child, as this may be different from the previous batch.

General advice about medicines

- Try to give medicines at about the same times each day, to help you remember.
- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your health professional but continue to give the medicine as usual in the meantime. Do not give extra doses, as you may do harm.
- Only give this medicine to your child. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.
- If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact a health professional straight away.
- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you will run out.
- Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

Where should I keep this medicine?

- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Who to contact for more information

Your healthcare team will be able to give you more information about captopril and about other medicines used to improve heart function.

You can also get useful information from:

England: NHS 111

Tel 111 nhs.uk

Scotland: NHS 24

Tel 111 nhs24.scot

Wales: NHS 111 Wales

Tel 111 111.wales.nhs.uk

Northern Ireland: NI Direct

nidirect.gov.uk

Children's Heart Federation

chfed.org.uk

www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk