

# Captopril



## The Heart Centre

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4  
604-875-2120 • 1-888-300-3088  
Emergency call: 604-875-2161  
(ask for Cardiologist on call)  
[www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca)

## What is Captopril (Capoten)?

Captopril (KAP-toe-pril) is a medication that may be used to treat heart failure or less often to lower blood pressure. It helps the heart pump blood more easily throughout your body. It belongs to the class of medications called ACE inhibitors.

Captopril comes in tablet and liquid (suspension) form.

## How do I give this medicine?

- ▶ Shake well if liquid form
- ▶ Give \_\_\_ mL or \_\_\_ tablet(s)(= \_\_\_\_ mg) \_\_\_ times a day by mouth/NG or GT
- ▶ It should be given on an empty stomach (1 hour before meals or 2 hours after).
- ▶ Give at the same time every day at equally spaced times

## How is this medication stored?

- ▶ Store liquid in fridge
- ▶ Tablets should be kept at room temperature away from sunlight
- ▶ Keep tablets away from moist and damp places
- ▶ Keep medication out of the reach of small children

## What should I do if a dose is missed?

- ▶ Give the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the normal time.
- ▶ Do **not** double up the dose.
- ▶ If your child vomits within 30 minutes after a dose - give a new dose. If longer than 30 minutes then wait until next normal medication time.

## Possible common side effects:

- Dizziness or lightheaded due to low blood pressure, often with first dose or dose increase
- Dry cough
- Strange or metallic taste
- Headache
- Unusual tiredness

## Call cardiologist, cardiology clinic or seek care if your child has any of the following:

- ▶ Sore throat or hoarseness that does not go away
- ▶ Rash or itchy skin
- ▶ Fainting (passing out)
- ▶ Any new symptoms that seem different from your usual heart symptoms



Call 911 if any new problems breathing, shortness of breath or swelling of tongue, face or lips.

### Other notes or special instructions:

- If the child has taken or been given an extra dose and you are worried call Healthlink BC at 811
- If your child accidentally has taken or been given an overdose call:



**BC Drug and Poison Centre:**  
1-800-567-8911 • 604 -682-5050

- ▶ Maximal effect on blood pressure may take up to several weeks.
- ▶ Ask your child to get out of bed or stand up slowly if light headed or dizzy.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications, over the counter medications, or herbal products.
- ▶ Do not give your child any potassium supplements, unless prescribed by your doctor, or too many foods that are high in potassium such as bananas or orange juice.
- ▶ Don't give your child any products with ibuprofen (Advil). Acetaminophen (Tylenol) is a better choice for pain or fever.
- ▶ Captopril liquid must be made by a specialized pharmacy. Check with your pharmacy that they can make captopril for your child.
- ▶ Check expiry date of liquid.

Developed by the Departments of Pharmacy and Cardiology with assistance from the Department of Learning & Development.

References: upon request • Last updated: Apr.22.2016

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