

ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS

Other names: Losartan (Cozaar®, Losartan Actavis®)
Candesartan (Atacand®, Candestar®)



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine?

Losartan and candesartan belong to the group of medicines known as **angiotensin II receptor antagonists**. They are used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure) and congestive heart failure.

They work by causing blood vessels to relax, which lowers your blood pressure. They are also used to help prevent kidney complications in people with diabetes and to help the heart function better. This causes improvement in the heart failure condition.

When to take this medicine

- Take this medicine exactly as directed by your doctor
- Always take this medicine at the same time **each** day
- Do not stop taking this medicine without checking with your doctor first

If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- allergic reaction: itching or hives, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat or tightness in chest.
- change in how much or how often you urinate (pee)
- chest pain (may be related to your condition and not a side effect)
- irregular/fast heartbeat, shortness of breath
- muscle cramps or weakness
- nausea and vomiting
- light-headedness or fainting
- swelling in the hands, ankles or feet

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- cough
- stuffy or runny nose
- sore throat
- unpleasant taste
- diarrhoea
- muscle pain
- headache

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

Skin photosensitivity:

- Losartan and candesartan increases your skin's sensitivity to sunlight which may cause it to burn easily. You should try to avoid exposure to the sun and sun beds.
- Always wear a sunhat, protective clothing and sun block lotion (SPF > 30) when going into the sun.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Do not use potassium supplements or salt substitutes without asking your doctor.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.