

## amlodipine besylate

Norvasc L

**Pharmacologic class:** Calcium channel blocker

**Therapeutic class:** Antihypertensive

**Pregnancy risk category C**

### Action

Inhibits influx of extracellular calcium ions, which decreases myocardial contractility, relaxes coronary and vascular muscles, and decreases peripheral resistance

### Availability

Tablets: 2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg

### Indications and dosages

➤ Essential hypertension, chronic stable angina pectoris, and vasospastic angina (Prinzmetal's angina), given alone or with other drugs

**Adults:** 5 to 10 mg P.O. once daily

#### **Dosage adjustment**

- Hepatic impairment
- Elderly patients

### Off-label uses

- Pulmonary hypertension
- Raynaud's disease

### Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to drug

### Administration

- Be aware that this drug may be given concurrently with other antihypertensives and antianginals.

Route	Onset	Peak	Duration
P.O.	Unknown	6-9 hr	24 hr

### Adverse reactions

**CNS:** headache, dizziness, drowsiness, light-headedness, fatigue, weakness, lethargy

**CV:** peripheral edema, angina, bradycardia, hypotension, palpitations

**GI:** nausea, abdominal discomfort

**Musculoskeletal:** muscle cramps, muscle pain or inflammation

**Respiratory:** shortness of breath, dyspnea, wheezing

**Skin:** rash, pruritus, urticaria, flushing

### Interactions

**Drug-drug.** *Beta blockers:* increased risk of adverse effects

*Fentanyl, nitrates, other antihypertensives, quinidine:* additive hypotension


**Drug-behaviors.** *Acute alcohol ingestion:* additive hypotension

### Precautions

Use cautiously in:

- aortic stenosis, severe hepatic impairment, heart failure
- elderly patients
- pregnant or breastfeeding patients.
- children.

### Patient monitoring

 Monitor patient for worsening angina.

- Monitor heart rate and rhythm and blood pressure, especially at start of therapy.
- Assess for heart failure; report signs and symptoms (peripheral edema, dyspnea) to prescriber promptly.
- Give sublingual nitroglycerin, as prescribed, if patient has signs or symptoms of acute myocardial infarction, especially when dosage is increased.

### Patient teaching

- Instruct patient to avoid driving and other hazardous activities until he knows how drug affects concentration and alertness.
- If patient also uses sublingual nitroglycerin, tell him he can take nitroglycerin as needed for acute angina.