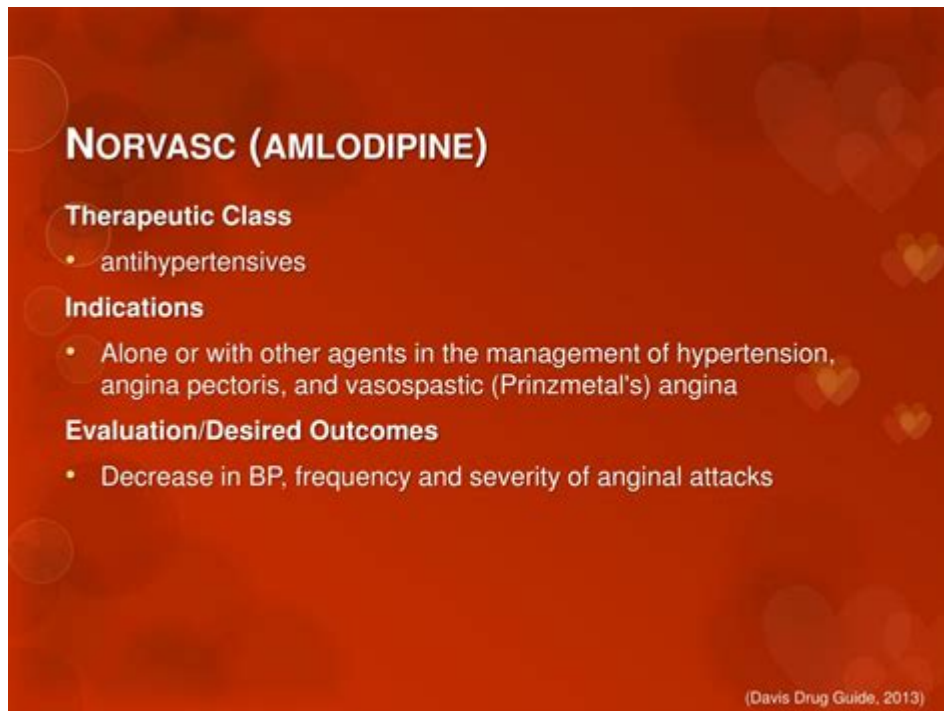


Amlodipine Davis Drug Guide

A graphic with a dark red background and faint heart patterns. It contains white text organized into sections: 'NORVASC (AMLODIPINE)', 'Therapeutic Class' (antihypertensives), 'Indications' (hypertension, angina pectoris, vasospastic angina), and 'Evaluation/Desired Outcomes' (decrease in BP, frequency and severity of anginal attacks). A small citation '(Davis Drug Guide, 2013)' is at the bottom right.

NORVASC (AMLODIPINE)

Therapeutic Class

- antihypertensives

Indications

- Alone or with other agents in the management of hypertension, angina pectoris, and vasospastic (Prinzmetal's) angina

Evaluation/Desired Outcomes

- Decrease in BP, frequency and severity of anginal attacks

(Davis Drug Guide, 2013)

Amlodipine Davis Drug Guide is an essential resource for healthcare professionals and patients alike, offering comprehensive information about the medication amlodipine. This long-acting calcium channel blocker is primarily used for managing hypertension and angina, and understanding its pharmacology, dosing, potential side effects, and interactions is critical for safe and effective use. In this article, we will delve deep into the various aspects of amlodipine, providing guidance based on the Davis Drug Guide and other reputable sources.

Understanding Amlodipine

What is Amlodipine?

Amlodipine is a dihydropyridine calcium channel blocker that works by inhibiting the influx of calcium ions into vascular smooth muscle and cardiac muscle. This action results in the relaxation of blood vessels, leading to decreased blood pressure and reduced workload on the heart. It is commonly prescribed for:

- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Angina pectoris (chest pain)
- Coronary artery disease

Mechanism of Action

Amlodipine selectively inhibits calcium entry through L-type calcium channels primarily in the vascular smooth muscle. The reduction in intracellular calcium concentration leads to:

1. Vasodilation of peripheral and coronary arteries.
2. Decreased myocardial oxygen demand.
3. Improved blood flow to the heart muscle.

These effects make amlodipine effective for both managing blood pressure and relieving angina symptoms.

Dosing Information

Initial and Maintenance Doses

The dosing of amlodipine varies based on the condition being treated and the patient's response. General guidelines for adults include:

- Hypertension:
 - Initial dose: 2.5 mg to 5 mg orally once daily.
 - Maintenance dose: 5 mg to 10 mg orally once daily, depending on blood pressure response.
- Angina:
 - Initial dose: 5 mg orally once daily.
 - Maintenance dose: 5 mg to 10 mg orally once daily.

Special Populations

- Elderly Patients: Consider starting at a lower dose (2.5 mg) to reduce the risk of hypotension.
- Patients with Renal Impairment: No dose adjustment is typically necessary, but monitoring is recommended.
- Patients with Hepatic Impairment: Amlodipine should be used with caution; consider starting with a lower dose.

Administration and Storage

How to Take Amlodipine

Amlodipine is available in oral tablet form and should be taken as follows:

- Administered once daily, with or without food.
- Swallow tablets whole; do not crush or chew.
- Consistency in timing (same time each day) can help maintain stable blood levels.

Storage Recommendations

- Store at room temperature (20-25°C or 68-77°F).
- Keep away from moisture and direct light.
- Ensure the medication is out of reach of children.

Potential Side Effects

Common Side Effects

While many patients tolerate amlodipine well, some may experience side effects, including:

- Swelling of the legs or ankles (peripheral edema)
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Fatigue
- Flushing
- Palpitations

Serious Side Effects

In rare cases, amlodipine can cause more serious reactions, which require immediate medical attention:

- Severe allergic reactions (rash, itching, swelling)
- Chest pain or worsening angina
- Symptoms of liver dysfunction (yellowing of skin or eyes)

Drug Interactions

Major Drug Interactions

Amlodipine may interact with various medications, potentially altering its effectiveness or increasing the risk of adverse effects. Important interactions include:

1. CYP3A4 Inhibitors:

- Drugs such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, and ritonavir may increase amlodipine levels, enhancing its effect and risk of side effects.

2. CYP3A4 Inducers:

- Medications like rifampin and St. John's Wort may decrease amlodipine levels, leading to inadequate blood pressure control.

3. Other Antihypertensives:

- Combining with other blood pressure medications can lead to additive effects and hypotension.

Monitoring for Interactions

Patients should inform healthcare providers of all medications, supplements, and over-the-counter products they are taking, including:

- Antidepressants
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
- Herbal supplements

Patient Counseling Information

Key Points for Patients

When prescribing amlodipine, healthcare providers should emphasize the following:

1. Adherence: Stress the importance of taking the medication consistently as prescribed.
2. Monitoring: Encourage regular blood pressure checks to ensure effectiveness.
3. Lifestyle Choices: Advise on lifestyle modifications, such as dietary changes, exercise, and smoking cessation, which can enhance treatment outcomes.
4. Report Side Effects: Instruct patients to report any unusual symptoms or side effects promptly.

Missed Dose Instructions

In case patients miss a dose, they should:

- Take it as soon as they remember, unless it's almost time for the next dose.
- Do not double up on doses to make up for the missed one.

Conclusion

The Amlodipine Davis Drug Guide serves as a vital tool for understanding the use of amlodipine in

managing hypertension and angina. With its well-documented efficacy and safety profile, amlodipine has become a cornerstone in cardiovascular therapy. By adhering to proper dosing guidelines, being aware of potential side effects and interactions, and maintaining open communication with healthcare providers, patients can effectively manage their conditions and improve their overall health. Always remember, any medication should be taken with caution and under the guidance of a qualified healthcare professional.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is amlodipine commonly used for?

Amlodipine is commonly used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) and chest pain (angina) by relaxing blood vessels, allowing blood to flow more easily.

What are the common side effects of amlodipine?

Common side effects of amlodipine include swelling of the legs or ankles, flushing, palpitations, dizziness, and fatigue.

How should amlodipine be taken according to the Davis Drug Guide?

Amlodipine should be taken orally, typically once daily, with or without food, and should be swallowed whole with a glass of water.

Are there any contraindications for taking amlodipine?

Yes, amlodipine is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to the drug, severe aortic stenosis, or unstable angina.

Can amlodipine interact with other medications?

Yes, amlodipine can interact with various medications, including certain antihypertensives, simvastatin, and drugs that affect liver enzymes. Always consult a healthcare provider before combining medications.

What should patients monitor while taking amlodipine?

Patients should monitor their blood pressure regularly to ensure it remains within the target range and report any significant changes or side effects to their healthcare provider.

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