

Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACE Inhibitors)

Mechanism of action: blocks the enzyme necessary for production of angiotensin II (angiotensin II causes blood vessels to tighten or contract); decreases buildup of water and salt

Drug names:

- lisinopril
- enalapril
- quinapril
- captopril

Side effects:

- Hypotension
- Hyperkalemia
- Dry cough
- Taste disturbances
- Headache

Adverse effects:

- Angioedema
- Neutropenia
- Photosensitivity

Nursing considerations:

- Check blood pressure and heart rate before administration. (If blood pressure is less than 90/60 or heart rate is less than 60 beats per minute, hold medication and ask physician if patient should receive the medication)
- Assess use of any diuretics (concurrent use will increase the hypotensive effect and hyperkalemia if taking a potassium sparing diuretic)
- Continue to monitor blood pressure and heart rate after administration
- Teach patients to take medication at the same time every day in the home setting
- Teach patients to avoid salt substitutes (increased risk of hyperkalemia)
- Teach patients to seek emergency treatment if they experience swelling in the face
- AVOID in pregnancy and breastfeeding