

Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonist

Mechanism of action: Blocks effects of angiotensin II by blocking the binding of angiotensin II to receptor sites. Angiotensin II causes vasoconstriction and sodium and water retention.

Inactivated by the liver and excreted by the kidney

Drugs names:

- Losartan (Cozaar)
- Valsartan (Diovan)

Side effects:

- Dizziness, light-headedness
- Headache
- Hypotension
- Hyperkalemia
- Diarrhea

Adverse effects:

- Kidney failure
- Angioedema
- Liver toxicity

Nursing Considerations:

- Check kidney function before administration- BUN and creatinine
- Ask patient about existing liver disease. (Patients with liver problems should not take these medications.)
- Check blood pressure and heart rate before administration. (If BP is less than 90/60 mmHg or if the heart rate is less than 60 bpm, do not administer the medication)
- Assess for signs of angioedema after administration
- Record urine output and weight after administration and monitor for decreased output or an increase in weight
- Check potassium levels and assess for signs of hyperkalemia
- Teach patient to rise slowly from a lying or sitting position to prevent falls
- **AVOID** during pregnancy and breastfeeding