

## Prescribing Tips for Amlodipine in Hypertension and Stable Angina

A range of amlodipine preparations are available. Different salts are interchangeable (e.g. besilate, maleate). An up-to-date listing is available on the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) website at [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie).

### Therapeutic Indications

- Hypertension
- Chronic stable angina
- Vasospastic (Prinzmetal's) angina

### Hypertension and Stable Angina: Dosing and Administration

Full prescribing information is available in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) which may be accessed freely online at [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie) or [www.medicines.ie](http://www.medicines.ie). Please consult the SmPC for guidance on prescribing in special patient populations e.g. renal or hepatic impairment.

**Table 1: Dosing and administration of amlodipine in hypertension and stable angina**

Hypertension and stable angina	Starting dose	Maximum daily dose
Adults	5mg once daily	Increase up to a maximum of 10mg daily
Elderly (>65 years)	Dose as per adults, increase dose with care	

### MONITOR

- ✓ **Blood pressure**
- ✓ **Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs):** Peripheral oedema, headache, dizziness, fatigue, flushing, nausea, abdominal pain and sleep disturbance.\*
- Peripheral oedema caused by calcium channel blockers does not respond to diuretics. Patients who experience peripheral oedema while taking amlodipine may benefit from switching to **lercanidipine**.

\* A full list of adverse-effects is available in the SmPC.

### TARGET FOR BLOOD PRESSURE LOWERING

- ✓ In most patients the **target systolic blood pressure is <140mmHg**. A **diastolic blood pressure target of <90mmHg** is generally recommended, except in patients with **diabetes** in whom values **<85mmHg** are recommended.
- ✓ In patients **≥80 years old** the target is **<150/90mmHg**.

Further advice on blood pressure targets including specific populations is available from NICE at [www.NICE.org.uk](http://www.NICE.org.uk) and through the ESC website at [www.escardio.org](http://www.escardio.org).

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Cardiogenic shock
- Significant aortic stenosis
- Unstable angina
- Severe hypotension
- Unstable heart failure
- Obstruction of outflow to the left ventricle

### CAUTIONS

- Heart failure: ↑ risk of pulmonary oedema
- Hepatic impairment: initiate at low dose
- Renal impairment: normal dose recommended
- Elderly patients: ↑ dose with caution

### INTERACTIONS\*

- **Strong/moderate inhibitors of CYP3A4:** concomitant use may ↑ levels of amlodipine causing ↑ side effects e.g. azole antifungals (itraconazole), macrolide antibiotics (erythromycin, clarithromycin) and protease inhibitors (ritonavir). Monitor and ↓ dose of amlodipine if required.
- **Inducers of CYP3A4:** concomitant use may ↓ effects of amlodipine e.g. phenytoin, carbamazepine and rifampicin. Monitor and ↑ dose of amlodipine if required.
- **Antihypertensives:** enhanced hypotensive effect, ↑ risk of first dose hypotension with alpha-blockers.
- **Simvastatin:** concomitant use may ↑ levels of simvastatin, ↑ risk of myopathy. Maximum of 20mg simvastatin daily should be administered with amlodipine.
- **Grapefruit juice:** not recommended, may ↑ effect of amlodipine.

\*a full list of interactions can be found in the SmPC for amlodipine and Stockley's drug interactions 11<sup>th</sup> edition.