

Most Commonly Used Heart Failure Medicines

Types of Medicine	What They Do	Possible Side Effects	Important to Know
ACE Inhibitor, ARB, ARNI Your medicine: _____ <i>*Can extend life in patients with heart failure.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lowers blood pressure reduces strain on the heart makes it easier for the heart to pump improves blood flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low blood pressure dizziness dry cough change in kidney function too much potassium in the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dose starts low and increases slowly over time need to have blood tests to check potassium levels and kidney function get medical help right away if mouth, lips, or tongue become swollen
Beta Blocker Your medicine: _____ <i>*In combination with ACE/ARB/ARNI can extend life even further.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lowers blood pressure slows heart rate may strengthen heart's pumping action over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low blood pressure dizziness low heart rate depression tiredness sexual dysfunction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dose will increase over time do not stop this medicine suddenly call your health care provider if you have side effects
Diuretic Your medicine: _____ <i>*Also called "water pills."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> helps rid the body of excess water reduces swelling may improve breathing reduces work for the heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequent urination potassium/magnesium/sodium loss kidney problems low blood pressure high blood sugar dizziness gout impotence dehydration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> dose changes by how much fluid is retained a potassium supplement may be needed (if told by your health care provider)
Aldosterone Antagonist Your medicine: _____ <i>*Given for advanced heart failure.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> alters hormones that damage the heart reduces strain on the heart 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> changes kidney function low blood pressure breast swelling, tenderness (in both men and women) too much potassium in the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> need to have blood tests to check potassium levels if potassium levels are high, you may need to avoid or limit high-potassium foods
Digoxin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> slows heart rate strengthens heart's pumping action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> slow heart rate if drug amount too high yellow tinted vision loss of appetite stomach pain nausea/vomiting/diarrhea heart rhythm problems tiredness or weakness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> blood levels of the drug may need to be checked call your health care provider if you have side effects
Hydralazine and Nitrate Your medicine: _____ <i>*Relieves chest pain.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lowers blood pressure reduces work for the heart dilates blood vessels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> low blood pressure dizziness fast heart rate headache leg swelling nausea and vomiting flushed skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> call your health care provider if you have side effects
Anticoagulants Your medicine: _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thins blood lowers the risk of forming clots lowers your risk of stroke 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> risk for bruising risk of bleeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will need to have frequent blood testing some anticoagulants do not require frequent testing notify your health care provider immediately if you have excessive bruising, bleeding, or have a fall

*** It is important to speak with your doctor before using non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen, naproxen, or by trade names Advil, Motrin, and Aleve. NSAIDs may cause unwanted side effects such as fluid retention.***