

Antihypertensive medication

Drugs used to treat **high blood pressure** ([hypertension](#)).

□ Main Classes of Antihypertensive Medications

1. **Diuretics ("Water pills")** - **Examples:** Hydrochlorothiazide, Chlorthalidone, Furosemide - **Mechanism:** Help the body eliminate excess salt and water, reducing blood volume. - **Side effects:** Electrolyte imbalance, increased urination, dizziness.

2. **ACE Inhibitors (Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors)** - **Examples:** Enalapril, Lisinopril, Ramipril - **Mechanism:** Block the formation of angiotensin II, relaxing blood vessels. - **Side effects:** Dry cough, hyperkalemia, angioedema.

3. **ARBs (Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers)** - **Examples:** Losartan, Valsartan, Irbesartan - **Mechanism:** Block angiotensin II receptors on blood vessels. - **Side effects:** Dizziness, hyperkalemia, less cough than ACE inhibitors.

4. **Calcium Channel Blockers (CCBs)** - **Examples:** [Amlodipine](#), Verapamil, Diltiazem - **Mechanism:** Prevent calcium from entering heart and vessel muscle cells, reducing contraction strength and relaxing vessels. - **Side effects:** Swelling (edema), headache, constipation (especially with verapamil).

5. **Beta-Blockers** - **Examples:** Metoprolol, Atenolol, Propranolol - **Mechanism:** Reduce heart rate and output by blocking beta-adrenergic receptors. - **Side effects:** Fatigue, bradycardia, erectile dysfunction, depression.

6. **Alpha-Blockers** - **Examples:** Doxazosin, Prazosin - **Mechanism:** Relax certain muscles and help small blood vessels remain open. - **Side effects:** Orthostatic hypotension, dizziness.

7. **Central Acting Agents** - **Examples:** Clonidine, Methyldopa - **Mechanism:** Act on the central nervous system to lower blood pressure. - **Side effects:** Sedation, dry mouth, rebound hypertension if suddenly stopped.

8. **Direct Vasodilators** - **Examples:** Hydralazine, Minoxidil - **Mechanism:** Directly relax the muscles in blood vessel walls. - **Side effects:** Reflex tachycardia, fluid retention, hair growth (minoxidil).

Antihypertensive medication after intracerebral hemorrhage

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