

## Moexipril – an ACE inhibitor

**Clinical author's note 27/11/2017: Michael Stewart:** Moexipril was discontinued in the UK in March 2016. At the time of review there are no branded or generic products containing moexipril available in the UK. Moexipril may still be available in other countries. This medicine leaflet is based on medical information available in the UK at the time of writing and is left here for reference purposes. Please also refer to the manufacturer's information supplied with your medicine.

The first dose of moexipril may make you feel dizzy, so it is best taken just before bedtime.

Some painkillers and indigestion remedies interfere with moexipril, so ask your pharmacist for advice before you buy any medicines.

Some people taking moexipril can develop a troublesome cough. If this happens to you, let your doctor know.

### About moexipril

Type of medicine	An angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor
Used for	High blood pressure (hypertension)
Also called	Perdix® (discontinued); Univasc® (US)
Available as	Tablets

Moexipril belongs to a class of medicines called [angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, or ACE inhibitors](#). You will have been prescribed it to reduce [high blood pressure \(hypertension\)](#). Although people with high blood pressure usually feel well, if left untreated, high blood pressure can harm the heart and damage blood vessels, leading to a heart attack or stroke.

ACE inhibitors like moexipril prevent your body from creating a hormone known as angiotensin II. They do this by blocking (inhibiting) a chemical called angiotensin-converting enzyme. This widens your blood vessels and helps to reduce the amount of water put back into your blood by your kidneys. These actions help to lower the high blood pressure.

You may be prescribed moexipril on its own, or alongside other medicines to help your condition.

## Before taking moexipril

Some medicines are not suitable for people with certain conditions, and sometimes a medicine may only be used if extra care is taken. For these reasons, before you start taking moexipril it is important that your doctor knows:

- If you are pregnant, trying for a baby or breastfeeding.
- If you have problems with the way your kidneys work, or any problems with the way your liver works.
- If you are lacking in fluid in the body (dehydrated) – for example, if you have had diarrhoea or sickness very recently.
- If you have been told you have a build-up of fatty deposits on the walls of your arteries, a condition called atherosclerosis.
- If you have a particular type of poor circulation called peripheral arterial disease.
- If you have collagen vascular disease – this includes conditions such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and scleroderma.
- If you have been told you have a heart problem such as heart muscle disease (cardiomyopathy), or narrowing of the main blood vessel from your heart (aortic stenosis).

- If you have ever had a reaction where your face, tongue or throat swells (angio-oedema).
- If you are having desensitisation treatment to protect against bee and wasp stings.
- If you are having dialysis treatment, or treatment to remove cholesterol from your blood by a machine (LDL apheresis).
- If you are taking any other medicines. This includes any medicines you are taking which are available to buy without a prescription, as well as herbal and complementary medicines.
- If you have ever had an allergic or unusual reaction to any other ACE inhibitor (such as lisinopril, ramipril or perindopril), or to any other medicine.

## How to take moexipril

- Before you start this treatment, read the manufacturer's printed information leaflet from inside the pack. It will give you more information about moexipril and will provide you with a full list of side-effects which you may experience from taking it.
- Take moexipril exactly as your doctor tells you to. You will be asked to take one dose each day.
- Your doctor will advise you to take your very first dose at bedtime. This is because the first dose may make you feel dizzy.
- After the first dose, you can generally take moexipril at any time of day you find easy to remember – for most people, this will be first thing in the morning. Try to take your dose at the same time each day. You should ideally take the tablet before food as this allows your body to absorb more of the medicine. Swallow the tablet with a drink of water.
- If you forget to take a dose at your usual time, take it as soon as you remember. If you do not remember until the following day, skip the forgotten dose. Do not take two doses at the same time to make up for a missed dose.

## Getting the most from your treatment

- Try to keep your regular appointments with your doctor. This is so your progress can be monitored. Your doctor may want you to have some blood tests from time to time to check that your kidneys are working well.
- It is very important that you follow any dietary and lifestyle advice that you are given by your doctor. This may include advice about eating a healthy diet, not smoking, and taking regular exercise.
- If you buy any medicines, check with a pharmacist that they are suitable to take with moexipril. This is because some medicines (such as anti-inflammatory painkillers and indigestion remedies) may interfere with your treatment.
- It is likely that your doctor will advise that you do not use salt substitutes while you are taking moexipril. These products have a high content of potassium which could be harmful for you.
- If you have a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, your doctor may advise you to stop taking the tablets for a short while until you are drinking sufficient fluids again. This is to help prevent any damage to your kidneys while you are dehydrated.
- If you drink alcohol, ask your doctor for advice about drinking alcohol while you are on moexipril. Alcoholic drinks may make you feel light-headed or dizzy, and may not be advisable for you.
- If you are having an operation or dental treatment, tell the person carrying out the treatment that you are taking moexipril tablets. This is because some anaesthetics may cause your blood pressure to drop too far.
- Treatment with moexipril is usually long-term unless you experience an adverse effect. Continue to take the tablets unless you are advised otherwise.

## Can moexipril cause problems?

Along with their useful effects, most medicines can cause unwanted side-effects although not everyone experiences them. The table below contains some of the most common ones associated with moexipril. You will find a full list in the manufacturer's information leaflet supplied with your medicine. The unwanted effects often improve as your body adjusts to the new medicine, but speak with your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following continue or become troublesome.

<b>Common moexipril side-effects (these affect fewer than 1 in 10 people)</b>	<b>What can I do if I experience this?</b>
Dry irritating cough	If this continues, speak with your doctor as an alternative medicine may be better for you
Feeling dizzy, especially when standing up	Getting up more slowly should help. If you begin to feel dizzy, sit or lie down for a few moments before standing. If this continues beyond the first few days, speak with your doctor. Do not drive and do not use tools or machines while you feel dizzy
Headache	Drink plenty of water and ask your pharmacist to recommend a suitable painkiller. If the headaches continue, let your doctor know
Feeling tired	If this happens, do not drive and do not use tools or machines until you feel more awake
Flushing, rash	Speak with your doctor if either of these become troublesome

**Important:** if you experience any of the following rare but serious symptoms, stop taking moexipril and contact your doctor for advice straightaway:

- Any difficulty breathing, or swelling of your face, mouth, tongue or throat. These are signs of an allergic reaction.
- Any yellowing of your skin or of the whites of your eyes. These may be signs of jaundice, which is a rare side-effect.
- A severe skin rash.

If you experience any other symptoms which you think may be due to the tablets, speak with your doctor or pharmacist for further advice.

## How to store moexipril

- Keep all medicines out of the sight and reach of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct heat and light.

## Important information about all medicines

Never take more than the prescribed dose. If you suspect that you or someone else might have taken an overdose of this medicine, go to the accident and emergency department of your local hospital. Take the container with you, even if it is empty.

This medicine is for you. Never give it to other people even if their condition appears to be the same as yours.

Do not keep out-of-date or unwanted medicines. Take them to your local pharmacy which will dispose of them for you.

If you have any questions about this medicine ask your pharmacist.

Report suspected side effects to medicines, vaccines, e-cigarettes, medical device incidents, defective or falsified (fake) products to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to ensure safe and effective use.

## Further reading

- [Medicines Complete BNF 87th Edition](#); British Medical Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London.

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