



## Calcium Channel Blockers

Drug	Brand Name		
Amlodipine	Norvasc		
Diltiazem	Cardizem	Vasocardol	Coras
	Dilzem	Gen Rx Diltiazem	Diltahexal
		Vasocardil CD	
Felodipine	Felodur		Plendil
Nifedipine	Nifedipine BC	Adalat	Nyefax
	Gen Rx Nifedipine	Nifecard	Nifehexal
	Adefin	Nypine	
Verapamil	Isoptin	Veracaps	Anpec
			Cordilox

### What is it used for?

Calcium channel blockers lower high blood pressure and help treat angina. They open up blood vessels which lets blood flow easier down the coronary arteries, which supplies the heart muscle with its blood and oxygen.

### How to take this drug

This medication must be taken regularly. If a dose is missed, only take the dose if you remember within three hours. If not, do not take the missed dose, and take the next dose when it is due normally. Do not take two doses at once.

**Take this medication only as the directions say on the pharmacy label.**

### Before taking this medication it is important to tell your doctor if you:

- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- Are breast feeding
- Eat grapefruit regularly
- Have had any allergies to other medications

### Side Effects

Side effects occur in some people taking this medication. If they are troublesome to you, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

- Swelling of the ankles, hands or feet
- Headache, dizziness
- Upset stomach or nausea
- Flushing
- Drowsiness/ tiredness
- Constipation (only with Verapamil)

### It is very important to tell your doctor immediately if you have:

- **Slow, fast or uneven pulse rates**

### Other important facts

- If you get tired/drowsy, take care with driving or other activities requiring alertness
- Never share your medicines with anyone
- Keep medicine out of reach of children

**If you have any queries about your medications, talk to your Doctor or pharmacist.**

**This information is only designed for use as an educational aid and is general in nature.**

*This resource was produced using information from Hospital Pharmacy Services and assistance from Royal Darwin Hospital Pharmacy*

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