

# CAPTOPRIL

**Other Names:** Capoten<sup>®</sup>,  
Apo-Captopril<sup>®</sup>.

## **Available Preparations:**

5mg/mL oral solution (Capoten<sup>®</sup> liquid)  
12.5mg, 25mg, 50mg tablet

## **Why your child is taking captopril**

Captopril is used to relax and widen the blood vessels. This means that the heart does not have to work so hard to pump blood.

## **How to give your child captopril**

- Your doctor will tell you how much captopril to give your child and how often.
- It is very important to give the exact amount that has been prescribed by your child's doctor. You may need to use an oral syringe (available from ward 23B or your pharmacy) to administer the oral liquid into your child's mouth.
- Captopril should be given to your child at the same times each day. The absorption of captopril is reduced by food. It is best that you give captopril one hour before food (on an empty stomach).
- If your child vomits the medicine immediately after giving it, then you can safely repeat the dose. Do not repeat the dose if there is more than 15 minutes between the captopril being given and your child vomiting. Please consult your doctor if vomiting persists.

- Prior to discharge, the ward staff will demonstrate the correct way to measure and give this medicine to your child. The medical, nursing, and pharmacy staff on ward 23B are available for advice. Do not hesitate to call if you are worried or unsure of anything.

## **If your child misses a dose**

Give the dose as soon as you remember, *unless* the next dose is due within 4 hours. In that case, skip the missed dose and give the next dose when it is due. **Do not give two doses at the same time.** If you are unsure, please contact your pharmacist or doctor.

## **Precautions while taking captopril**

- Do not stop giving your child captopril suddenly without first contacting your child's cardiologist or doctor.
- Always have a supply of your child's medicine on hand.
- You may find when you first start giving your child captopril that he or she feels dizzy when standing up too quickly. Be aware of this and make sure that a quiet period (approximately one hour) occurs after you give the captopril.
- If your child is to have a desensitisation procedure with wasp or bee venom, notify your doctor that your child is taking captopril.

## **Side effects**

Unfortunately, as well as having beneficial effects, most medicines have some unwanted effects that are called "side effects". However, your child may not experience any side effects.

## **Important side effects**

Tell your doctor **immediately** if your child experiences any of the following:

- Swelling of the lips, face, tongue
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin)
- Seizures

## **Less serious side effects**

Tell your pharmacist or doctor if your child experiences any of the following for more than 24 hours:

- Abdominal pain
- Dry cough
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- Rash
- Dizzy, light-headed
- Diminished sense of taste

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients, if you notice any effects which concern you, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

## Other medicines

Some medicines can interact with captopril. Do not give your child indigestion remedies, iron or calcium preparations within two hours of taking captopril.

Do not give your child any medicines or remedies (including those bought from pharmacies, health food shops or supermarkets) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist first. Ensure your doctor, dentist or any other doctor you may see knows your child is taking captopril before they prescribe any other medicine.

## How to store captopril

Captopril tablets and Capoten<sup>®</sup> liquid should be stored in a cool, dry area.

It is very important to store this medicine out of reach of children (preferably in a locked cupboard). The captopril oral liquid should only be used until its expiry date. Discuss this with your pharmacist to make sure you always have a supply of captopril on hand.

Please read this leaflet  
and discuss any  
questions you may have  
about your child's  
medicines with your  
cardiologist,  
paediatrician, family  
doctor or hospital  
pharmacist.



**PHARMACY**  
PATIENT INFORMATION

**CAPTOPRIL**