

# iMedix: Your Personal Health Advisor.

## Verapamil HCL

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Verapamil hydrochloride (HCL) is a medication primarily used to treat hypertension, angina, and certain types of arrhythmias. It belongs to a class of drugs known as calcium channel blockers, which work by relaxing the muscles of the heart and blood vessels.

- **ActiveIngredient:**
  - **DosageForm:**
  - **Dosage:**
  - **Indications:**
  - **Manufacturer:**
  - **Storage:**
  - **Market Price:**
  - **Drug Status:**
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### Description

Side Effects Dizziness, slow heartbeat, constipation, nausea, headache, or tiredness may occur. If any of these effects last or get worse, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly. To lower your risk of dizziness and lightheadedness, get up slowly when rising from a sitting or lying position. Remember that this medication has been prescribed because your doctor has judged that the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor right away if you have any serious side effects, including: severe dizziness, fainting, new or worsening symptoms of heart failure (such as shortness of breath, swelling ankles/feet, unusual tiredness, unusual/sudden weight gain), very slow heartbeat. This drug may rarely cause serious (possibly fatal) liver disease. Get medical help right away if you have any symptoms of liver damage, such as: nausea/vomiting that doesn't stop, loss of appetite, stomach/abdominal pain, yellowing eyes/skin, dark urine. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, get medical help right away if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), severe dizziness, trouble breathing. This is not a complete list of possible side effects. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist. In the US – Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch). In Canada – Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to Health Canada at 1-866-234-2345. How long does it take for this medicine to take effect? The onset of action for verapamil can vary depending on the formulation (immediate-release vs. extended-release) and the route of administration (oral vs. intravenous). For oral formulations, the onset of action typically occurs within 1 to 2 hours after ingestion. For intravenous administration, the effects can be observed almost immediately. How long do the effects of this medicine last? The duration of the effects of verapamil also depends on the formulation. Immediate-release tablets generally have a duration of action of 6 to 8 hours, necessitating multiple doses throughout the day. Extended-release formulations can last 24 hours, allowing for once-daily dosing. Is it safe to consume alcohol while taking this medicine? Consuming alcohol while taking verapamil may enhance the blood pressure-lowering effects of the medication and increase the risk of side effects such as dizziness, lightheadedness, and fainting. It is generally advisable to limit or avoid alcohol consumption while taking verapamil. Is this a habit forming medicine? Verapamil does not have habit-forming properties and is not considered addictive. It is used for its cardiovascular effects and does not produce euphoria or any

psychoactive effects that could lead to dependence. Can this medicine be taken during pregnancy? Verapamil is classified as FDA Pregnancy Category C, indicating that animal reproduction studies have shown an adverse effect on the fetus and there are no adequate and well-controlled studies in humans, but potential benefits may warrant the use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks. The use of verapamil during pregnancy should be considered only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. Can this medicine be taken while breast-feeding? Verapamil is excreted into breast milk in small amounts. While there are limited data on the effects of verapamil on a nursing infant, the amounts present in breast milk are considered to be low and unlikely to cause significant effects in most cases. However, it is advisable for nursing mothers to consult with a healthcare provider to weigh the potential risks and benefits of using verapamil while breastfeeding.

**Uses** Verapamil is used to treat high blood pressure. Lowering high blood pressure helps prevent strokes, heart attacks, and kidney problems. Verapamil belongs to a class of drugs known as calcium channel blockers. It works by relaxing blood vessels so blood can flow more easily. Verapamil is also used to prevent chest pain (angina). It may help to increase your ability to exercise and decrease how often you may get angina attacks. Verapamil is also used to control your heart rate if you have a fast/irregular heartbeat (such as atrial fibrillation). It helps to lower the heart rate, helping you to feel more comfortable and increase your ability to exercise.

**How to use verapamil oral** Take this medication by mouth with or without food as directed by your doctor, usually 3 or 4 times daily. The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to treatment. Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same times each day. For the treatment of high blood pressure, it may take a week before you get the full benefit of this drug. Keep taking this medication even if you feel well. Most people with high blood pressure do not feel sick. To prevent chest pain, it is very important to take this medication regularly as prescribed. This drug should not be used to treat chest pain when it occurs. Use other medications to relieve sudden attacks as directed by your doctor (for example, nitroglycerin tablets placed under the tongue). Consult your doctor or pharmacist for details. Do not stop taking this medication without consulting your doctor. Some conditions may become worse when this drug is suddenly stopped. Your dose may need to be gradually decreased. Tell your doctor if your condition does not get better or if it gets worse (for example, your blood pressure readings remain high or increase or your chest pain occurs more often).

**Precautions** Before taking verapamil, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies. This product may contain inactive ingredients, which can cause allergic reactions or other problems. Talk to your pharmacist for more details. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: certain types of heart rhythm problems (such as second- or third-degree atrioventricular block, sick sinus syndrome unless you have a pacemaker, Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, Lown-Ganong-Levine syndrome), heart failure, certain muscle/nerve disorders (muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis), liver disease, kidney disease. This drug may make you dizzy. Alcohol or marijuana (cannabis) can make you more dizzy. Do not drive, use machinery, or do anything that needs alertness until you can do it safely. Limit alcoholic beverages. Talk to your doctor if you are using marijuana (cannabis). Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist about all the products you use (including prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and herbal products). Older adults may be more sensitive to the side effects of this drug, especially constipation, or swelling ankles/feet. During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication passes into breast milk, but is unlikely to harm a nursing infant. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

**Overdose** If someone has overdosed and has serious symptoms such as passing out or trouble breathing, call 911. Otherwise, call a poison control center right away. US residents can call their local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222. Canada residents can call a provincial poison control center. Symptoms of overdose may include: very slow heartbeat, severe dizziness, fainting. Do not share this medication with others. Lifestyle changes that may help this medication work better include exercising, stopping smoking, and eating a low-cholesterol/low-fat diet. Consult your doctor for more details. Lab and/or medical tests (such as liver function) should be done while you are taking this medication. Keep all medical and lab appointments. Consult your doctor for more details. Check your blood pressure and pulse (heart rate) regularly while taking this medication. Learn how to check your own blood pressure and pulse at home, and share the results with your doctor. There are different brands and types of this medication available. Some do not have the same effects. Do not change brands or types without consulting your doctor or pharmacist. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose. Take your next dose

at the regular time. Do not double the dose to catch up. Store at room temperature away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medications away from children and pets. Do not flush medications down the toilet or pour them into a drain unless instructed to do so. Properly discard this product when it is expired or no longer needed. Consult your pharmacist or local waste disposal company.

**Interactions** Drug interactions may change how your medications work or increase your risk for serious side effects. This document does not contain all possible drug interactions. Keep a list of all the products you use (including prescription/nonprescription drugs and herbal products) and share it with your doctor and pharmacist. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicines without your doctor's approval. Some products that may interact with this drug include: aliskiren, clonidine, disopyramide, dofetilide, fingolimod, lithium. Other medications can affect the removal of verapamil from your body, which may affect how verapamil works. Examples include erythromycin, rifamycins (such as rifampin), ritonavir, St. John's wort, among others. Verapamil can slow down the removal of other medications from your body, which may affect how they work. Examples of affected drugs include asunaprevir, colchicine, elacestrant, fezolinetant, flibanserin, ivabradine, lomitapide, midazolam, triazolam, among others. Some products have ingredients that could raise your heart rate or blood pressure. Tell your pharmacist what products you are using, and ask how to use them safely (especially cough-and-cold products, diet aids, or NSAIDs such as ibuprofen/naproxen).

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## **Side Effects**

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## **Uses**

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## **Interactions**

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## **Other Details**

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