

Medicines for the treatment of high blood pressure

Medicine Class Name	Generic Name Examples (Brand name)	How they work to lower blood pressure
Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Captopril (Capoten) • Enalapril (Vasotec) • Benazepril (Lotensin) • Lisinopril (Prinivil, Zestril) • Quinapril (Accupril) • Ramipril (Altace) • Trandolapril (Mavik) 	Work by interfering with the renin-angiotensin system (RAAS). RAAS is a complex system responsible for regulating the body's blood pressure. They prevent ACE from producing angiotensin II, a substance that narrows blood vessels which then reduces blood pressure.
Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Losartan (Cozaar) • Valsartan (Diovan) • Olmesartan (Benicar) • Irbesartan (Avapro) • Candesartan (Atacand) • Telmisartan (Micardis) 	Work by interfering with the renin-angiotensin system (RAAS). RAAS is a complex system responsible for regulating the body's blood pressure. They block the receptor that angiotensin II, a substance that narrows blood vessels, binds to, blocking its action which then reduces blood pressure
Beta blockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metoprolol tartrate (Lopressor) • Metoprolol succinate (Toprol XL) • Atenolol (Tenormin) • Bisoprolol (Zebeta) 	Work on blood vessel walls, blocking the action of the sympathetic nervous system, which then reduces blood pressure

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propranolol (Inderal) • Carvedilol (Coreg) 	
Diuretics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) • Chlorthalidone (Hygroton) • Furosemide (Lasix) • Bumetanide (Bumex) • Torsemide (Demadex) • Spironolactone (Aldactone) 	Reduce blood pressure by increasing the amount of salt and water removed by the kidney
Calcium channel blockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amlodipine (Norvasc) • Nifedipine (Adalat, Procardia) • Diltiazem (Cardizem) • Verapamil (Calan, Isoptin) 	Work on the smooth muscles of the blood vessels, making them relax which then reduces blood pressure
Alpha blockers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doxazosin (Cardura) • Terazosin (Hytrin) • Prazosin (Minipress) 	Work on the blood vessel walls, causing the blood vessels to dilate which then reduces blood pressure
Central alpha agonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonidine (Catapres) 	Work in the central nervous system inhibiting the sympathetic system
Direct vasodilators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydralazine (Apresoline) • Minoxidil (Loniten) 	Directly bind and relax smooth muscles in blood vessels, causing vessels to dilate which then reduces blood pressure

Reproduced from Whelton et al. "2017 ACC/AHA/AAPA/ABC/ACPM/AGS/APhA/ASH/ASPC/NMA/PCNA Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults".