Aliskiren

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Indications

Hypertension
Hiker-BP
Aliskiren is indicated for the treatment of hypertension.

Mechanism of Action

Direct Renin Inhibitor
Wrench in Inhibiting-chains
Aliskiren works by directly blocking the action of renin, a hormone made by the kidneys. Renin participates in blood pressure regulation by converting angiotensinogen to angiotensin I, which is then converted to angiotensin II, a potent vasoconstrictor. Angiotensin II also stimulates the release of aldosterone, which helps the body retain sodium, thus increasing blood pressure.

Side Effects

Hyperkalemia
Hiker-banana
Hyperkalemia is a side effect of aliskiren. Hyperkalemia occurs when there is an excess of potassium in the blood.

Decreased GFR
Down-arrow GFR-gopher
A decrease in glomerular filtration rate (GFR) is a side effect of aliskiren. GFR is a measure of at what rate the kidneys are filtering blood.

Hypotension
Hippo-BP
Hypotension is a side effect of aliskiren. Lightheadedness, dizziness, blurred vision, weakness, and nausea are all common symptoms of hypotension.

Angioedema
Angel-edamame
Angioedema, a condition that results in swelling beneath the skin, can be brought on by aliskiren.

Contraindications

ACE Inhibitors
ACE with Inhibiting-chains and Caution-tape
Combining aliskiren and ACE inhibitors can increase the risk of serious side effects such as hyperkalemia, decreased GFR, hypotension, and angioedema.

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ARBs

Angel-tennis Receptor Blockers Caution-tape

Combining aliskiren and angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs) can increase the risk of serious side effects such as hyperkalemia, decreased GFR, hypotension, and angioedema.

Pregnancy

Pregnant-woman Caution-tape

Aliskiren use during pregnancy may decrease fetal renal function. Additionally, the drug increases fetal and neonatal morbidity and mortality.

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