



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.

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.