New Heart Failure Medications

Angiotensin-Receptor Neprilysin Inhibitors (ARNIs)

Sacubitril/valsartan is a new drug combination of a neprilysin inhibitor and an ARB (see page 14 for more information on ARBs)

Your healthcare provider will prescribe it as: sacubitril/valsartan. It is a combination medication that reduces the risk of cardiovascular death and hospitalization for heart failure in patients with a reduced ejection fraction.

It is given twice a day. Take your medication exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.

It is used to replace ACE inhibitors (see page 5 for more information on ACE inhibitors).

It has the same side effects as other ARBs (see pages 14-15).

It should NOT be taken with another ARB or ACE inhibitor.

When switching from an ACE inhibitor; sacubitril/valsartan should be started 36 hours after the last dose of the ACE inhibitor.

What is the most important information you should know about taking sacubitril/valsartan?

Side effects include:
- Serious allergic reactions causing swelling of your face, lips, tongue and throat (angioedema) that may cause trouble breathing and death
- Low blood pressure
- Kidney problems
- Increased potassium levels in your blood—your healthcare provider will check your potassium levels during your treatment

Ivabradine

Ivabradine is in a new class of prescription medication used to reduce the risk of hospitalization for heart failure in patients with a reduced ejection fraction.

Ivabradine helps to lower your heart rate so your heart doesn’t have to work as hard. Your healthcare provider will adjust your dose based on your heart rate.

It is taken twice a day with meals, such as at breakfast and with your evening meal. Take your medication exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.

What is the most important information you should know about taking Ivabradine?

Side effects include:
- Increased blood pressure
- Temporary changes in vision (halos, increased brightness)

Avoid drinking grapefruit juice and taking St. John’s wort during your treatment with Ivabradine. These can affect the way the medication works and can cause serious side effects.

Ivabradine should be used in patients already taking maximally tolerated doses of beta blockers and other heart failure medications.