

Hypertension

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 240 mg daily, increased if necessary up to 480 mg daily, doses above 240 mg daily as 2 divided doses

Angina

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 240 mg twice daily, may sometimes be reduced to once daily

Prophylaxis after myocardial infarction where beta-blockers not appropriate

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 360 mg daily in divided doses, started at least 1 week after infarction, given as either 240 mg in the morning and 120 mg in the evening or 120 mg 3 times daily

VERAPRESS® MR**Hypertension**

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 240 mg daily, increased if necessary to 240 mg twice daily

Angina

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 240 mg twice daily, may sometimes be reduced to once daily

VERTAB® SR 240**Mild to moderate hypertension**

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 240 mg daily, increased if necessary to 240 mg twice daily

Angina

▶ BY MOUTH

- ▶ Adult: 240 mg twice daily, may sometimes be reduced to once daily

● UNLICENSED USE

- ▶ With oral use Prophylaxis of cluster headaches is an unlicensed indication.

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Acute porphyrias p. 1120 · atrial flutter or fibrillation associated with accessory conducting pathways (e.g. Wolff-Parkinson-White-syndrome) · bradycardia · cardiogenic shock · heart failure (with reduced ejection fraction) · history of significantly impaired left ventricular function (even if controlled by therapy) · hypotension · second- and third-degree AV block · sick sinus syndrome · sino-atrial block

- **CAUTIONS** Acute phase of myocardial infarction (avoid if bradycardia, hypotension, left ventricular failure) · first-degree AV block · neuromuscular disorders

CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION

- ▶ Elderly Prescription potentially inappropriate (STOPP criteria) in patients with NYHA Class III or IV heart failure (may worsen heart failure). See also Prescribing in the elderly p. 33.

- **INTERACTIONS** → Appendix 1: calcium channel blockers

● SIDE-EFFECTS**GENERAL SIDE-EFFECTS**

- ▶ **Common or very common** Hypotension
- ▶ **Frequency not known** Atrioventricular block · extrapyramidal symptoms · gynaecomastia · Stevens-Johnson syndrome · vertigo

SPECIFIC SIDE-EFFECTS

- ▶ **Common or very common**
- ▶ With intravenous use Bradycardia
- ▶ **Frequency not known**
- ▶ With intravenous use Cardiac arrest · hepatic impairment · hyperhidrosis · myocardial contractility decreased · nervousness · seizure

- ▶ With oral use Abdominal discomfort · alopecia · arrhythmias · arthralgia · constipation · erythromelalgia · fatigue · galactorrhoea · heart failure · ileus · muscle weakness · tinnitus · tremor

Overdose In overdose, verapamil has a profound cardiac depressant effect causing hypotension and arrhythmias, including complete heart block and asystole.

- **PREGNANCY** May reduce uterine blood flow with fetal hypoxia. Manufacturer advises avoid in first trimester unless absolutely necessary. May inhibit labour.
- **BREAST FEEDING** Amount too small to be harmful.
- **HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT**
Dose adjustments ▶ With oral use Manufacturer advises dose reduction.

- **MEDICINAL FORMS** There can be variation in the licensing of different medicines containing the same drug. Forms available from special-order manufacturers include: oral suspension, oral solution

Modified-release tablet**CAUTIONARY AND ADVISORY LABELS 25**▶ **Half Securon** (Mylan)

Verapamil hydrochloride 120 mg Half Securon SR 120mg tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £7.71 DT = £7.71

▶ **Securon SR** (Mylan)

Verapamil hydrochloride 240 mg Securon SR 240mg tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £5.55 DT = £5.55

▶ **Vera-Til SR** (Tillomed Laboratories Ltd, Actavis UK Ltd)

Verapamil hydrochloride 120 mg Vera-Til SR 120mg tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £6.98 DT = £7.71

Verapamil hydrochloride 240 mg Vera-Til SR 240mg tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £10.00 DT = £5.55

▶ **Verapress MR** (Dexcel-Pharma Ltd)

Verapamil hydrochloride 240 mg Verapress MR 240mg tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £9.90 DT = £5.55

▶ **Vertab SR** (Chiesi Ltd)

Verapamil hydrochloride 240 mg Vertab SR 240 tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £5.45 DT = £5.55

Tablet▶ **Verapamil hydrochloride (Non-proprietary)**

Verapamil hydrochloride 40 mg Verapamil 40mg tablets | 84 tablet [PoM] £2.24 DT = £1.89

Verapamil hydrochloride 80 mg Verapamil 80mg tablets | 84 tablet [PoM] £2.63 DT = £2.36

Verapamil hydrochloride 120 mg Verapamil 120mg tablets | 28 tablet [PoM] £4.43 DT = £4.02

Verapamil hydrochloride 160 mg Verapamil 160mg tablets | 56 tablet [PoM] £33.84 DT = £29.47

Solution for injection▶ **Securon** (Mylan)

Verapamil hydrochloride 2.5 mg per 1 ml Securon IV 5mg/2ml solution for injection ampoules | 5 ampoule [PoM] £5.41

Oral solution▶ **Verapamil hydrochloride (Non-proprietary)**

Verapamil hydrochloride 8 mg per 1 ml Verapamil 40mg/5ml oral solution sugar-free | 150 ml [PoM] £44.92 DT = £41.00

DIURETICS > THIAZIDES AND RELATED DIURETICS**Thiazides and related diuretics** ➔

- **CONTRA-INDICATIONS** Addison's disease · hypercalcaemia · hyponatraemia · refractory hypokalaemia · symptomatic hyperuricaemia

- **CAUTIONS** Diabetes · gout · hyperaldosteronism · malnourishment · nephrotic syndrome · systemic lupus erythematosus

CAUTIONS, FURTHER INFORMATION

- ▶ Existing conditions Thiazides and related diuretics can exacerbate diabetes, gout, and systemic lupus erythematosus.
- ▶ Potassium loss Hypokalaemia can occur with both thiazide and loop diuretics. The risk of hypokalaemia depends on the duration of action as well as the potency and is thus