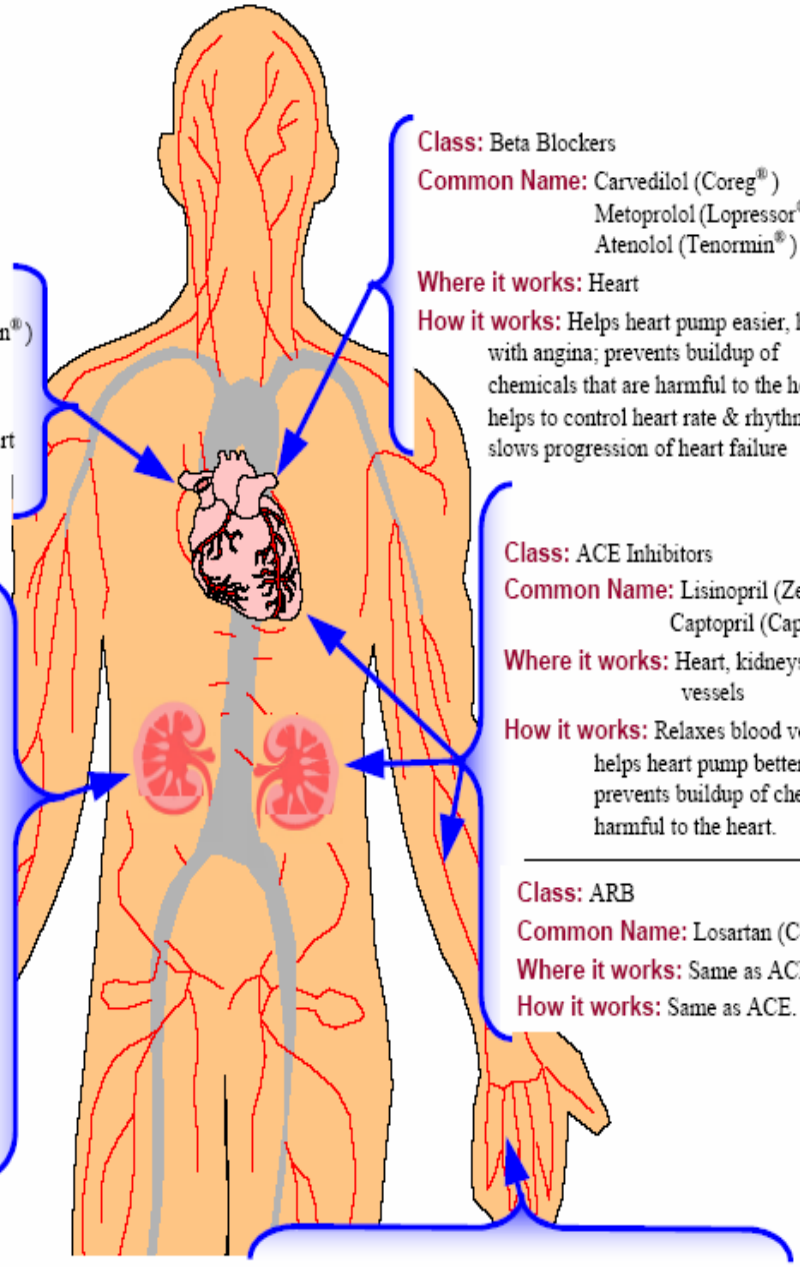
HEART FAILURE MEDICATIONS

How They Work



Class: Beta Blockers
Common Name: Carvedilol (Coreg®)
Metoprolol (Lopressor®)
Atenolol (Tenormin®)
Where it works: Heart
How it works: Helps heart pump easier, helps with angina; prevents buildup of chemicals that are harmful to the heart; helps to control heart rate & rhythm; slows progression of heart failure

Class: Digoxin
Common Name: Digoxin (Lanoxin®)
Where it works: Heart
How it works: Helps heart pump stronger & helps to control heart rate & rhythm

Class: ACE Inhibitors
Common Name: Lisinopril (Zestril®)
Captopril (Capoten®)
Where it works: Heart, kidneys, blood vessels
How it works: Relaxes blood vessels; helps heart pump better; prevents buildup of chemicals harmful to the heart.

Class: Diuretics
Common Name: Furosemide (Lasix®)
Bumetamide (Bumex®)
Metolazone (Zaroxolyn®)
Where it works: Kidneys
How it works: Helps kidneys get rid of excess fluid; helps reduce symptoms of heart failure.

Class: ARB
Common Name: Losartan (Cozaar®)
Where it works: Same as ACE.
How it works: Same as ACE.

Class: Potassium-Sparing Diuretic
Common Name: Spironolactone (Aldactone®)
Where it works: Kidneys
How it works: Prevents buildup of chemicals harmful to the heart.

Drug Combination: Long-acting Nitrate & Hydralazine
Common Name: Isosorbide Dinitrate (Isordil®)
Isosorbide Mononitrate (Imdur®)
Where it works: Blood vessels
How it works: Dilates blood vessels; helps heart pump easier.