

MEDICATION PREFIXES & SUFFIXES

– ANTI-INFECTIVES

Prefix/Suffix	Class	Examples	Common Side Effects
-Azole	Antifungals	Butoconazole, Econazole, Fluconazole	Nausea, dark urine, clay-colored stools, flu-like symptoms, red skin rash
-Ciclovir	Antivirals	Famciclovir, Ganciclovir, Acyclovir	NVD (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea), muscle aches, vision changes, headache, weakness
-Vir		Abacavir, Zanamivir	
-Navir	HIV/AIDS Antivirals	Amprenavir, Indinavir, Nelfinavir, Ritonavir	NVD, anorexia, fatigue, anxiety, nephro-/hepatotoxicity
-Vudine		Lamivudine, Stavudine, Zidovudine	
Cef-	Cephalosporins (antibiotics)	Cefadroxil, Cefaclor, Cefixime, Cefibuten	Stomach discomfort, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, thrush, rash
Ceph-		Cephalexin, Cephapirin, Cephradine	
-Cillin	Penicillins	Ampicillin, Penicillin, Nafcillin	Hypersensitivity, NVD, abdominal pain, C. difficile
-Dazole	Nitroimidazole antimicrobial	Metronidazole	Candida, weakness, headache, neurotoxicity
-Floxacin	Fluoroquinolones (antibiotics)	Ciprofloxacin, Gatifloxacin, Levofloxacin	NV, GI upset, dizziness, insomnia, headache
-Micin	Aminoglycosides (antibiotics)	Gentamicin	Candida, weakness, headache, neurotoxicity
-Mycin	Aminoglycosides /macrolides	Erythromycin, Tobramycin, Vancomycin	Ototoxicity, hypersensitivity, cholestatic hepatitis, NVD
Rifa-	Antituberculars	Rifamate, Rifampin, Rifapentine, Rifater	Ototoxicity, hepatotoxicity, joint pain, NV, anorexia
Sulfa-	Sulfonamides (antibiotics)	Sulfadiazine, Sulfamethoxazole, Sulfasoxazole	Skin rash, itching, headache, NVD, tiredness, dizziness
-Quine	Antiparasitics	chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine	Anorexia, headache, dizziness, weight loss, neuropathy

*NVD = nausea, vomiting, diarrhea *NV = nausea, vomiting

MEDICATION PREFIXES & SUFFIXES

– CARDIAC-RELATED

Prefix/Suffix	Class	Examples	Common Side Effects
-Actone	Potassium - Sparing diuretic	Aldactone, Spironolactone	Hyperkalemia, headache, hyponatremia, dizziness, muscle cramps, hypotension
-Semide	Loop Diuretic	Bumetanide, Furose- mide, Torsemide	Hyponatremia, hypokalemia, thirst, head- ache, hypotension
-Thiazide	Thiazide diuretics	Benzthiazide, Hydrochlorothiazide	Anorexia, dizziness, GI upset, headache, weakness, hypotension
-Ase	Thrombolytics (clot-busters)	Eminase, Retavase, Streptokinase	Bleeding, bruising easily, possible embolus, acute kidney injury
-Parin	Anticoagulant	Enoxaparin, Heparin	Bleeding, bruising, thrombocytopenia
-Azosin	Alpha blockers (adrenergic antago- nists)	Doxazosin, Prazosin, Terazosin	Orthostatic hypotension, edema, head- ache, tiredness, itching
-Lol	Beta blockers (adrenergic antagonists)	Atenolol, Propranolol, Sotalol, Metoprolol	Bradycardia, weakness, orthostatic hypo- tension, headache, GI upset
-Dipine	Calcium channel blockers	Amlodipine, Felodipine, Isradipine, Nifedipine	Headache, flushing, edema, hypotension, nausea, drowsiness
-Zem		Diltiazem (Cardizem)	
-Pril	ACE inhibitors	Captopril, Enalapril, Quinapril	Dry mouth, cough, fatigue, dizziness, headaches, hypotension
-Sartan	Angiotensin-II Receptor Blockers (ARB)	candesartan, losartan, telmisartan, valsartan	NVD, dizziness, headache, cough, hyperka- lemia, hypotension
-Statin	HMG-CoA Reduc- tase Inhibitor	Rosuvastatin, Atorvastatin, Simvastatin	Headache, insomnia, flushing, muscle aches, NV, abdominal pain
-Stigmine	Cholinergics	Neostigmine, Physostigmine, Pyridostigmine	Increased sweating, incontinence, weak- ness, NVD, abdominal pain, bradycardia, excessive drooling

MEDICATION PREFIXES & SUFFIXES

– PAIN & SEDATION

Prefix/Suffix	Class	Examples	Common Side Effects
-Barbital	Barbiturates (sedative-hypnotics)	Amobarbital, Pentobarbital, Secobarbital	Dizziness, sedation, headache, NV, abdominal pain
-Ane	General anesthetics	Cyclohexane, Ethane, Fluorine	Sedation, respiratory depression, malignant hyperthermia, dry mouth, NV post-op
-Caine	Local anesthetics	Bupivacaine, Cocaine, Lidocaine, Xylocaine	Bruising, itching, redness at injection site, numbness, nausea
-Cort-	Corticosteroids (anti-inflammatory)	Cortisone, Hydrocortisone	Weight gain, mood swings, blurry vision, bruising, hyperglycemia, weakness, immunosuppression
-Lone		Methylprednisolone, Prednisolone	
-Sone		Cortisone, Dexamethasone, Prednisone	
-Lam	Benzodiazepines (anxiolytics)	Alprazolam, Midazolam	Confusion, drowsiness, sedation, weakness, respiratory depression, ataxia, dizziness
-Pam		Diazepam, Lorazepam	
-Zolam		Alprazolam, Midazolam	
-Profen	NSAIDs (anti-inflammatory)	Fenoprofen, Ibuprofen, Ketoprofen	Stomach ulcers/pain, headache, bleeding, hypersensitivity
-Triptan	Anti-migraines	Naratriptan, Rizatriptan	Drowsiness, weakness, numbness or tingling, nausea
-Ergot-	Ergotamines (anti-migraine)	Ergotamine, Dihydroergotamine	Dizziness, vertigo, weakness, NV, mild itching
-Triptyline	Tricyclics (antidepressants)	amitriptyline, nortriptyline, protriptyline	Blurred vision, constipation, dry mouth, drowsiness, orthostatic hypotension, urine retention

MEDICATION PREFIXES & SUFFIXES

– MISCELLANEOUS

Prefix/Suffix	Class	Examples	Common Side Effects
-Calci-	Calcium & Vitamin D supplements	Calciferol, Calcitriol, Ergocalciferol	Irritability, chest pain, shortness of breath, NV, weight loss, weakness
-Dronate	Bisphosphonates	Alendronate, Etidronate, Pamidronate, Risedronate	Bone pain, GI upset, flu-like symptoms, hypocalcemia, rash
-Ine	Stimulants	Amphetamine, Caffeine, Terbutaline, Theophylline	Anorexia, tachycardia, nausea, hypertension, excitability, insomnia
-Prazole	Proton pump inhibitors	Lansoprazole, Omeprazole, Pantoprazole	NVD, abdominal pain, fever, headache, flatulence
-Setron	5-HT3 receptor blocker (anti-emetics)	Dolasetron, Granisetron, Ondansetron	Headache, fatigue, flushing, rash, prolonged QT interval, diarrhea
-Stine	Antineoplastics (anti-tumor)	Carmustine, Lomustine, Vinblastine, Vincristine	Pancytopenia, fatigue, NVD, anorexia, hair loss, skin changes
-Terol	Bronchodilators	Albuterol, Bitolterol, Levalbuterol, Pirbuterol	Tachycardia, arrhythmias, NVD, headache, insomnia, palpitations
-Tidine	H2 receptor antagonists (anti-ulcer)	Cimetidine, Famotidine, Nizatidine, Ranitidine	Headache. Rarely – diarrhea, dizziness, rash, gynecomastia
-Zine	Phenothiazines (antipsychotics)	Chlorpromazine, Perphenazine, Prochlorperazine	Dry mouth, confusion, dizziness, trembling, extrapyramidal symptoms
-Zoline	Nasal decongestants	Oxymetazoline, Xylometazoline	Dryness or burning in nose, sneezing, dizziness, headache