

1.2.2 ARBs Drug Interactions

Concomitant use of ARBs with certain drugs affects both drugs and result in fluctuations of their effectiveness for example lithium when taken with ARB's leads lithium toxicity due to increased renal reabsorption of lithium. Another example is Indomethacin which was reported to cause a decreased in the effectiveness of losartan. (Hutchison TA, Shahan, 2001; Böhler S, 2005), table 2 shows Interactions of angiotensin II receptor blockers with other drugs.

Table 2 Interactions of Angiotensin II Receptor Blockers with other Drugs

Precipitant drug	Object drug	CYP450 substrate	Effect
Cimetidine	Losartan	---	↑
Fluconazole	Losartan	3A4, 2C9	↑
Indomethacin	Losartan	-	↓
Phenobarbital	Losartan	-	↓ losartan ↓ active metabolite
Rifampin	Losartan	3A4, 2C9	↓ losartan
Telmisartan	Digoxin	-	↑ digoxin

(Olin BR, 2002; Burnier M. 2001; Rodgers JE,2001).

1.2.3 The Side Effects of ARBs Include:

Dizziness, lightheadedness, or faintness upon rising, This side effect may be strongest after the first dose, especially if you have been taking a diuretic (water pill).

Physical problems, Diarrhea, muscle cramps or weakness, back or leg pain, insomnia, irregular heartbeat, upper respiratory infection.