

A wide age range of the adult population, including the elderly was studied (range 19-92 years, mean 54.7 years). Women comprised almost half of the studied population (47.3%). Of the patients in the studied Exforge group, 87.6% were Caucasian. Black and Asian patients each represented approximately 4% of the population in the studied Exforge group.

Two additional double-blind, active-controlled studies were conducted in which Exforge was administered as initial therapy. In one study, a total of 572 Black patients with moderate to severe hypertension were randomized to receive either combination amlodipine/valsartan or amlodipine monotherapy for 12 weeks. The initial dose of amlodipine/valsartan was 5/160 mg for 2 weeks with forced titration to 10/160 mg for 2 weeks, followed by optional titration to 10/320 mg for 4 weeks and optional addition of HCTZ 12.5 mg for 4 weeks. The initial dose of amlodipine was 5 mg for 2 weeks with forced titration to 10 mg for 2 weeks, followed by optional titration to 10 mg for 4 weeks and optional addition of HCTZ 12.5 mg for 4 weeks. At the primary endpoint of 8 weeks, the treatment difference between amlodipine/valsartan and amlodipine was 6.7/2.8 mmHg.

In the other study of similar design, a total of 646 patients with moderate to severe hypertension (MSSBP of \geq 160 mmHg and $<$ 200 mmHg) were randomized to receive either combination amlodipine/valsartan or amlodipine monotherapy for 8 weeks. The initial dose of amlodipine/valsartan was 5/160 mg for 2 weeks with forced titration to 10/160 mg for 2 weeks, followed by the optional addition of HCTZ 12.5 mg for 4 weeks. The initial dose of amlodipine was 5 mg for 2 weeks with forced titration to 10 mg for 2 weeks, followed by the optional addition of HCTZ 12.5 mg for 4 weeks. At the primary endpoint of 4 weeks, the treatment difference between amlodipine/valsartan and amlodipine was 6.6/3.9 mmHg.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Exforge is available as non-scored tablets containing amlodipine besylate equivalent to 5 mg, or 10 mg of amlodipine free-base with valsartan 160 mg or 320 mg, providing for the following available combinations: 5/160 mg, 10/160 mg, 5/320 mg and 10/320 mg.

All strengths are packaged in bottles of 30 and 90 count, and unit dose blister packages.

5/160 mg Tablets - dark yellow, ovaloid shaped, film coated tablet with beveled edge, debossed with “NVR” on one side and “ECE” on the other side.

Bottles of 30	NDC # 0078-0488-15
Bottles of 90	NDC # 0078-0488-34
Unit Dose 100 tablets (10 X 10 tablets blister cards)	NDC # 0078-0488-35

10/160 mg Tablets - light yellow, ovaloid shaped, film coated tablet with beveled edge, debossed with “NVR” on one side and “UIC” on the other side.

Bottles of 30	NDC # 0078-0489-15
Bottles of 90	NDC # 0078-0489-34
Unit Dose 100 tablets (10 X 10 tablets blister cards)	NDC # 0078-0489-35

5/320 mg Tablets - very dark yellow, ovaloid shaped, film coated tablet with beveled edge, debossed with “NVR” on one side and “CSF” on the other side.

Bottles of 30	NDC # 0078-0490-15
Bottles of 90	NDC # 0078-0490-34
Unit Dose 100 tablets (10 X 10 tablets blister cards)	NDC # 0078-0490-35

10/320 mg Tablets - dark yellow, ovaloid shaped, film coated tablet with beveled edge, debossed with “NVR” on one side and “LUF” on the other side.

Bottles of 30	NDC # 0078-0491-15
Bottles of 90	NDC # 0078-0491-34
Unit Dose 100 tablets (10 X 10 tablets blister cards)	NDC # 0078-0491-35

Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15-30°C (59-86°F). [See USP Controlled Room Temperature.]
Protect from moisture.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

17.1 Information for Patients

Pregnancy: Female patients of childbearing age should be told that use of drugs like valsartan that act on the renin-angiotensin system can cause serious problems in the fetus and infant including: low blood pressure, poor development of skull bones, kidney failure and death. Discuss other treatment options with female patients planning to become pregnant. Women using Exforge who become pregnant should notify their physicians as soon as possible.

17.2 FDA-Approved Patient Labeling

PATIENT INFORMATION

EXFORGE (X-phorj)
(amlodipine and valsartan)
Tablets

Read the Patient Information that comes with EXFORGE before you start taking it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment. If you have any questions about EXFORGE, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What is the most important information I should know about EXFORGE?

If you become pregnant, stop taking EXFORGE and call your doctor right away. EXFORGE can harm an unborn baby causing injury and even death. If you plan to become pregnant, talk to your doctor about other treatment options to lower your blood pressure before taking EXFORGE.

What is EXFORGE?

EXFORGE contains two prescription medicines:

1. amlodipine, a calcium channel blocker
2. valsartan, an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB).

EXFORGE may be used to lower high blood pressure (hypertension) in adults

- when one medicine to lower your high blood pressure is not enough
- as the first medicine to lower high blood pressure if your doctor decides you are likely to need more than one medicine.

EXFORGE has not been studied in children under 18 years of age.

What should I tell my doctor before taking EXFORGE?

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- **are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** See “What is the most important information I should know about EXFORGE?”
- **are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.** EXFORGE may pass into your milk. Do not breast-feed while you are taking EXFORGE.
- have heart problems
- have liver problems
- have kidney problems
- are vomiting or having a lot of diarrhea

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some of your other medicines and EXFORGE could affect each other, causing serious side effects.

Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- other medicines for high blood pressure or a heart problem
- water pills (diuretics)
- potassium supplements
- a salt substitute

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your doctor or pharmacist when you get a new medicine. **Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you start taking any new medicine. Your doctor or pharmacist will know what medicines are safe to take together.**

How should I take EXFORGE?

- Take EXFORGE exactly as your doctor tells you.
- Take EXFORGE once each day.
- **EXFORGE can be taken with or without food.**
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is close to your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Just take the next dose at your regular time.
- If you take too much EXFORGE, call your doctor or Poison Control Center, or go to the emergency room.
- Tell all your doctors or dentist you are taking EXFORGE if you:
 - are going to have surgery
 - go for kidney dialysis

What should I avoid while taking Exforge?

You should not take Exforge during pregnancy. See “What is the most important information I should know about Exforge.”

What are the possible side effects of EXFORGE?

EXFORGE may cause **serious side effects** including:

- **harm to an unborn baby causing injury and even death.** See “What is the most important information I should know about EXFORGE?”
- **low blood pressure (hypotension).** **Low blood pressure is most likely to happen if you:**
 - take water pills
 - are on a low salt diet
 - **get dialysis treatments**
 - have heart problems
 - get sick with vomiting or diarrhea
 - **drink alcohol**

Lie down if you feel faint or dizzy. Call your doctor right away.

- **more heart attacks and chest pain (angina)** in people that already have severe heart problems. This may happen when you start EXFORGE or when there is an increase in your dose of EXFORGE. Get emergency help if you get worse chest pain or chest pain that does not go away.
- **kidney problems.** Kidney problems may become worse in people that already have kidney disease. Some people will have changes in blood tests for kidney function and may need a lower dose of EXFORGE. Call your doctor if you have swelling in your feet, ankles, or hands or unexplained weight gain. **If you have heart failure, your doctor should check your kidney function before prescribing EXFORGE.**
- **laboratory blood test changes in people with congestive heart failure.** Some people with congestive heart failure who take valsartan, one of the medicines in EXFORGE, have changes in blood tests including increased potassium and decreased kidney function.

The most common side effects of EXFORGE include:

- swelling (edema) of the hands, ankles, or feet

- nasal congestion, sore throat and discomfort when swallowing
- upper respiratory tract infection (head or chest cold)
- dizziness

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of EXFORGE. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

How should I store EXFORGE?

- Store EXFORGE at room temperature between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
- Keep EXFORGE dry (protect it from moisture).

Keep EXFORGE and all medicines out of the reach of children.

General Information about EXFORGE

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in the patient information leaflet. Do not use EXFORGE for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give EXFORGE to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This patient information leaflet summarizes the most important information about EXFORGE. If you would like more information about EXFORGE, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about EXFORGE that is written for health professionals. For more information go to www.EXFORGE.com or call 1-888-839-3674.

What are the ingredients in EXFORGE?

Active ingredients: Amlodipine besylate and valsartan

The inactive ingredients of all strengths of the tablets are colloidal silicon dioxide, crospovidone, magnesium stearate and microcrystalline cellulose. Additionally, the 5/320 mg and 10/320 mg strengths contain iron oxide yellow and sodium starch glycolate. The film coating contains hypromellose, iron oxides, polyethylene glycol, talc and titanium dioxide.

What is high blood pressure (hypertension)?

Blood pressure is the force of blood in your blood vessels when your heart beats and when your heart rests. You have high blood pressure when the force is too much. EXFORGE can help your blood vessels relax so your blood pressure is lower. Medicines that lower blood pressure lower your chance of having a stroke or heart attack.

High blood pressure makes the heart work harder to pump blood throughout the body and causes damage to blood vessels. If high blood pressure is not treated, it can lead to stroke, heart attack, heart failure, kidney failure and vision problems.

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