

HOW TO TAKE AN ANTIPLATELET DRUG

You are taking _____, which is an antiplatelet drug. This medication helps prevent unwanted blood clots. It is commonly used after heart attacks, stroke, and placement of a stent in an artery.

It is best to take to take this drug according to the following routine:

♥ Take the medication as you are directed by your physician. This drug can be taken with or without food.

♥ If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then and take the next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up a missed dose. Do not stop this medication without approval from your physician.

♥ Tell your physician if you take acid-reducing medications for heartburn or ulcers.

♥ While you are taking this drug, do not take non-steroidal anti-inflammatory pain relieving drugs (NSAIDs) without discussion with your physician. NSAIDs include ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn), meloxicam (Mobic), nabumetone (Relafen), celecoxib (Celebrex) and diclofenac (Voltaren).

♥ If you need to have surgery or dental work while on this drug, tell the surgeon or dentist ahead of time that you are taking it. They may direct you to stop using the medicine for several days before your procedure to decrease the risk of bleeding. They may want to discuss this issue with your physician. Do not stop this medication without approval from your physician.

♥ If you have bleeding or blood clotting disorder, history of stroke or mini-stroke, stomach ulcers, or liver or kidney disease, your physician may adjust the drug dose or order tests that help to take this drug safely.

♥ Most people take this drug without side effects. The most common side effects is easy bruising. Bleeding is a potentially serious side effect. Avoiding or limiting alcohol will decrease the risk of stomach bleeding. If you see blood in the urine, blood in the stool, or dark, tarry stools stop taking the drug and contact you physician right away.

We are pleased to answer your questions or discuss your condition with other health care professionals.

Presbyterian Heart Group
201 Cedar SE, Suite 7600; Albuquerque, NM 87106
505-569-2500 or 800-734-4278