

## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET



### MEDICINE TO TREAT: HEART DISEASES Antiplatelet Agents

Aspirin  
Dipyridamole  
Clopidogrel  
Ticlopidine

#### 1. What are these medicines used for?

Medicine	Purpose of medicine	Brand Names
Aspirin	This medicine makes blood less sticky to reduce the chance of blood forming clots which will lead to stroke or heart attack.	Cardiprin® Disprin®
Dipyridamole	This medicine makes the blood less sticky to reduce the chance of stroke. It is used together with aspirin.	Persantin®
Clopidogrel Ticlopidine	These medicines make your blood less sticky to reduce chance of stroke or heart attack. They can be used alone or together with aspirin.	Clopidogrel (Plavix®) Ticlopidine (Ticlid®),

#### 2. How should I take the medicines?

- Do not stop taking your medicines without checking with your doctors.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double your dose or use extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.
- You should take your medicine after a meal to prevent stomach upset.
- How you take aspirin depends on the brand and type of aspirin the doctor gives you:
  - For tablets which can be chewed:
    - Take with food or glass of water or milk
    - These tablets may be chewed or swallowed whole
    - The solution may also be used as a gargle. Please check with your pharmacist on how to use it as a gargle.
  - For tablets which enteric coated:
    - Enteric coated forms of aspirin reduce stomach upset that is caused by the medicine
    - Take with a glass of water after food.

- These tablets should be swallowed whole. Do not crush or chew the medicine.
- Tablets which need to be dissolved in water (effervescent):
  - You should dissolve a tablet in one glass of cool boiled water and drink it after food

### 3. What are the possible side effects of the medicines?

Medicine	Possible Side Effects
Aspirin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allergic reaction (respiratory congestion, swelling of throat, breathlessness, itching or skin rashes)</li> <li>• Nausea, indigestion or stomach discomfort. This can be reduced by taking aspirin with food or aspirin tablets which have a stomach protective coating.</li> <li>• Bleeding or bruising that happens more easily than usual or bloody urine.</li> <li>• Ringing noise in ears</li> </ul>
Dipyridamole	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dizziness or headache</li> <li>• Indigestion and stomach discomfort</li> <li>• Rashes</li> </ul>
Clopidogrel Ticlopidine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stomach discomfort</li> <li>• Diarrhoea</li> <li>• Rashes</li> <li>• Low blood counts (white blood cell or platelets). If you are taking ticlopidine, your doctor may need you to see him for regular blood tests.</li> </ul>

Please check with your doctor if you notice any unusual bleeding or bruising, any blood in your urine or faeces or experience any unusual side effects when taking your medicine.

### 4. How do I know if I am allergic to these medicines?

The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following:

- Swollen face/eyes/lips
- Difficulty in breathing
- Itchy skin rashes over your whole body

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medicine immediately and see your doctor.

## **5. What precautions should I follow when taking the medicines?**

Inform your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

You should also check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines (either prescription or over-the-counter medicines), nutritional supplements or herbal treatments. Some of these products and medicines may interact with your medicine.

If you are going for surgery, including dental treatments, please let your doctor know as these medicines may need to be stopped temporarily before the procedure to prevent too much bleeding.

## **6. How should I store the medicines?**

- Keep your medicines in the original container or packaging, tightly closed or sealed in a cool and dry place, away from direct sunlight.
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children.
- Throw away all expired medicines

This leaflet answers some common questions about this medicine. It does not contain all the available information. It also does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.