

Aspirin

WHAT IS ASPIRIN?

Aspirin is a medicine that has many uses. It is commonly used to reduce the risk of clots forming in arteries, reducing inflammation, and to relieve pain.

WHY AM I TAKING ASPIRIN?

You are taking aspirin to prevent a blood clot or stop a blood clot from getting bigger.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ASPIRIN?

You may experience easier bruising, nose bleeds, gum bleeding, or stomach upset.

If you experience excessive bruising, bleeding from unusual places, or bleeding that lasts longer than 20 minutes, call the clinic right away or go to the emergency room. These are rare but serious side effects of aspirin.

HOW DO I TAKE ASPIRIN?

Each person needs a different amount of aspirin and it is important that you take the dose as directed by the stroke clinic team.

It may be taken with or without food. Take with food if aspirin causes an upset stomach.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I MISS A DOSE?

You should not skip any doses, as this can affect the medicine's ability to prevent clots.

If you miss a single dose of aspirin, take the medication as soon as you remember.

If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular schedule.

If you forget more than one dose, DO NOT take another dose to 'catch up.'

A pillbox, phone app, or phone alarm can help you keep track of your doses.



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DOES ASPIRIN INTERACT WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS, FOODS, OR HERBAL, ALTERNATIVE, OR NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS?

Some medications and supplements can increase risk for bleeding. Please make sure to tell any other healthcare providers that you are taking aspirin. Avoid medications that contain aspirin, ibuprofen, or naproxen as they can increase your risk for bleeding and possibly interfere with the benefits of aspirin. There are some circumstances when these medications may be taken. Please talk to our stroke clinic team if you have questions.

It is okay to use acetaminophen (Tylenol) as needed for pain, fever or headache.

If you get a new prescription, or want to start an over-the-counter medication, or take herbal or homeopathic remedies, please call the stroke clinic team. We can help verify that any new medications or supplements will not interact with aspirin.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO STAY SAFE WHEN TAKING ASPIRIN?

Always wear a helmet while riding a bike, skateboarding or skiing. Always wear a seatbelt in motor vehicles. Inform all healthcare providers that you are taking aspirin, especially before undergoing any procedures or surgeries.

Notify the stroke clinic a few weeks before undergoing any procedures or surgeries to obtain a plan for aspirin dosing.

I STILL HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ASPIRIN. WHO CAN HELP ME FIND ANSWERS?

Please contact our stroke clinic team at the phone numbers below. We are happy to provide support and answer any other questions you may have.

We are located in the CU Medicine Building
at the Hemophilia and Thrombosis Center

13199 E. Montview Blvd., Suite 100, Aurora, CO 80045



Office Hours: M-F 8 am-4:30 pm

Scheduler: 303-724-6158

Questions for doctors or nurses: 720-777-6895

Website: medschool.ucdenver.edu/htc



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