



Antiplatelets



What is an antiplatelet?

Anti means “against” and platelets are blood cells that help with clotting. Antiplatelet medicines prevent platelets from sticking together which decreases the body’s ability to form clots. Antiplatelets are taken by mouth and do not require blood monitoring.

The medications commonly used in children within the Antiplatelet category are:

1. Clopidogrel (Plavix)
2. Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin or ASA)

Depending on your diagnosis, your care provider may prescribe both Clopidogrel (Plavix) and Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) and this is called Dual Antiplatelet therapy.

Important Things to Know if you are Taking antiplatelets

- ✓ Be sure to take antiplatelets with food. Taking this medication with food decreases the irritation to the lining of the stomach.
- ✓ Do NOT take any NSAIDS such as Ibuprofen, Advil, or Motrin unless your doctor advises you to do so.
- ✓ Be sure to tell your doctor or pharmacist if you take other medicines. This includes any vitamins or minerals, herbal supplements, or medicines you bought without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food store. It is a good idea to carry an up-to-date list of all your medications.
- ✓ If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. But don’t take two doses close together, and never take a double dose.
- ✓ Do NOT stop taking your Antiplatelet medicines unless told by your doctor.
- ✓ Be sure to tell your anticoagulation team if you have any planned procedures. Tell any doctor or dentist you are taking an antiplatelet before any medical procedures (including operations in the hospital and minor procedures at GP or dental clinics).

Side effects of antiplatelets

You may bruise easily or have minor bleeding while taking antiplatelets such as gum bleed while brushing your teeth, more bleeding than normal with small cuts or minor nose bleeds that stops after squeezing and holding the nose.

Contact your doctor immediately, or go to your nearest hospital emergency department if you:

- Have a nosebleed that does not stop after squeezing and holding without releasing for 10 min and then repeat if necessary.
- Have red or dark urine.
- Start coughing up blood or vomit, and it is dark, or blood stained.
- Have red or black (tar-like) bowel movements.
- Have bleeding that does not stop or improve after 10 minutes of firm pressure without releasing and then another 10 minutes of firm pressure.
- Have unexplained bruising on the abdomen or back or bruising that gets bigger without a cause.
- Have a bad headache or dizziness, especially after injury.



KidClot

