

Aspirin and Other Anti-Platelet Drugs

This handout explains how to take aspirin or other anti-platelet drugs and lists their side effects.

Do you need aspirin or other anti-platelet drugs

- If you have diabetes or heart disease, or if you have had a stroke, your doctor may ask you to take aspirin or other anti-platelet drugs
- It can help lower your risk for stroke, heart disease, and heart attacks

If you take aspirin

- Take aspirin any time of the day
- Your doctor will tell you how much to take
- Side effects
 - Heartburn
 - Ringing in ears
 - Bruise a lot
 - If dark stools or blood in stools, call the doctor right away
- Do not drink more than 2 alcoholic drinks a day

If you take clopidogrel (Plavix)

- Take with or without food
- Side effects
 - Runny stools or diarrhea
 - Skin rash

If you take dipyridamole/aspirin (Aggrenox)

- Take a pill twice a day
- Side effects
 - Headache
 - Heartburn
 - If dark stools or blood in stools, call the doctor right away
- Do not drink more than 2 alcoholic drinks a day

If you take ticlopidine (Ticlid)

- Take with food
- Take twice a day
- You may need blood tests
- Side effects
 - Runny stools or diarrhea
 - Skin rash