

Clopidogrel

Information for Patients

You have been given a medicine called Clopidogrel

Why has my doctor given me clopidogrel?

Clopidogrel can be used for various illnesses:

- after a heart attack
- some types of stroke
- after heart bypass surgery

Your doctor will tell you how long to take it for and whether to combine it with aspirin.

Check with your doctor if you are still not sure why you need clopidogrel.

How does it work?

Clopidogrel helps to prevent blood clots forming in the blood vessels which feed the heart muscle. Clots can block these vessels causing heart attacks.

How should I take my clopidogrel?

Always follow the instructions on the label, however, this will usually mean taking your clopidogrel once every day. Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop. Avoid taking cold and flu remedies that contain aspirin.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Take it as soon as you remember. If it is nearly time for the next dose, do not take the one you missed. Take the next dose at the usual time. Do not double up the next dose.

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What are the side effects of clopidogrel?

All drugs have side effects but most people will not experience them. Clopidogrel can cause stomach upset or heartburn. If this happens, always take your clopidogrel after food or with a glass of milk. If you develop heartburn, indigestion or your bowel motions become black, contact your doctor for further advice.

The following can occur in some people:

- rash
- nausea
- diarrhoea
- constipation

Can I take other medicines while taking clopidogrel?

Yes, but some other medicines contain aspirin and these should be avoided. It is important that you check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines including ones that you buy over the counter, especially cold or flu remedies. A suitable alternative for pain relief is paracetamol.

This leaflet is not intended as a substitute for any advice that your doctor, nurse or pharmacist may give you.

More detailed information can be obtained from the manufacturers information leaflet.

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