

ASPIRIN

Other names: Aspec®
Aspirin (Paddock)®
Aspirin (Signature Range)®
Aspro Clear®

Ethics Aspirin EC®
Disprin®
Soloprin®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

Why you are taking this medicine?

Aspirin belongs to a group of medicines known as anti-platelet medicines. Aspirin is used in heart disease to reduce the formation of blood clots in the heart's blood vessels and so helps prevent heart attacks, angina and strokes. The usual dose used is 150mg or less each day.

In larger doses, aspirin can be used for pain relief and as an anti-inflammatory, for example in toothache and headache.

When to take this medicine

- For heart conditions, aspirin is taken once a day, every day with or after food to reduce the risk of stomach irritation.
- If the tablet is soluble (e.g. Solprin), then dissolve half a tablet (150mg) in half a glass of water and take it sitting up or standing up.
- The enteric coated tablets (e.g. Ethics Aspirin) should be swallowed whole. Do not chew or crush them as this type of tablet reduces the irritation on the stomach.

DO NOT STOP taking aspirin without your doctor's permission.

If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- skin rash and/or intense itching
- shortness of breath, wheezing or tightness in your chest
- severe vomiting
- ringing in your ears
- bloody or black tarry stools or pink urine

- severe stomach pain
- severe dizziness or drowsiness
- swelling of the face or eyelids

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- upset stomach
- heartburn

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

However, since aspirin is mainly used in low doses, these side effects are usually not a problem.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products or medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Aspirin can be used with other medicines such as:

- clopidogrel (antiplatelet)
- dipyridamole (antiplatelet)
- warfarin (anticoagulant)

If taking these medicines together you need to watch out for any bleeding (i.e. black stools, pink urine).

Care needs to be taken when taking aspirin with some over the counter products, for example, omega-3, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. diclofenac, ibuprofen) and Ginkgo, as these combinations can also increase the risk of gastrointestinal (gut) bleeding.

Before surgery of any kind tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this aspirin.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.