

Patient Information

Antiplatelet combination treatments for Stroke patients

These drugs can be used separately or in combination, they reduce the ability of platelets sticking together to form clots (coagulation) and thus reducing the risk of stroke.

Aspirin

This is the most commonly used drug and is effective in the prevention of coagulation. It is available over the counter or on prescription. It is easy to administer.

How much will I take?

Dose - A maintenance dose of 75mg daily.

Dipyridamole

This drug is can be used alone or in combination with aspirin, as it improves the action of aspirin. Dipyridamole can be used in combination with aspirin as secondary prevention when a cerebral event has occurred. The drug will need to be continued under medical supervision.

How much will I take?

Dose - 200mg twice daily. One hour before food.

Interactions - These drugs increases the effect of other anticoagulant drugs.

What are the alternatives?

By deciding not to take this medication you will be at continued risk of developing a clot. Secondary prevention following a cerebral event such as a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) or stroke reduces the risk of a further more severe or even fatal event.

What are the potential risks and side effects?

All drugs have side effects; aspirin and dipyridamole are no exception. Common effects include:

- Indigestion, it is important to discuss this with the doctor as it is possible to resolve this with a drug to protect the stomach.
- Nausea, rash, breathlessness, vomiting blood, ringing in the ears headache, diarrhoea, dizziness and fainting are all rare but again merit a visit to the GP, if symptoms persist.

How will I feel after I start taking the drug?

You should not feel any different, however if you start to suffer any of the side effects noted above then you should contact your GP.

Sources of information

Stroke Association
Helpline: 0845 30 33 100
www.stroke.org.uk

Your GP

NHS Direct
Telephone 0845 4647
www.nhsdirect.uk

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Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) – details below.

Hand hygiene

The trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

This information is available in alternative formats such as large print or electronically on request. Interpreters can also be booked. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) offices, found in the main reception areas:

Conquest Hospital

Email: palsh@esht.nhs.uk - Telephone: **01424 758090**

Eastbourne District General Hospital

Email: palse@esht.nhs.uk - Telephone: **01323 435886**

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:
Dr MJH Rahmani, Consultant Lead in Stroke at Conquest Hospital, Hastings
Dr LCA Conrad, Consultant Lead in Stroke at Eastbourne District General Hospital
Jane Gallagher, Stroke Specialist Nurse (Information Originator)

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