

Patient Information

Antiplatelet treatments for Stroke patients - Aspirin

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

Aspirin

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

How much will I take?

For prevention of a transient Ischaemic attack (ministroke) and stroke, Aspirin dose of 75-300 mgs should be taken daily.

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 is 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 are all rare but merit a visit to the GP.

Interactions

Aspirin interacts with many drugs, but mainly those with the potential to irritate the stomach linings, such as drugs for gout or steroid, and some penicillin.

Aspirin also increases the effect of anti-diabetic drugs, it is therefore necessary to discuss this with the GP and/or diabetic nurse specialist.

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.nhs.uk

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.

Patient Information

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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