

**Prepared for patient:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Patient counseled by:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **Aggrenox**

## **(Dipyridamole/Aspirin)**

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### **What is Aggrenox?**

- Aggrenox is the brand name of your medication. The generic name is dipyridamole/aspirin. Generic Aggrenox capsules are not currently available.
- Aggrenox is a combination of two different medications that both help to prevent the formation of blood clots. Taking Aggrenox after you have had a stroke or a transient ischemic attack (TIA) can decrease your chance of having another stroke or TIA.
- Aggrenox capsules contain 25 mg of aspirin and 200 mg of extended-release dipyridamole in each capsule. The normal dose is one capsule by mouth twice daily, in the morning and evening.
- Aggrenox will not make you “feel better”, but it is a powerful medication that is working inside your body to help prevent future strokes.

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### **How should I take Aggrenox?**

- Aggrenox capsules should be taken exactly as directed by your doctor. One capsule is normally taken by mouth in the morning and then one capsule is taken by mouth in the evening. Take Aggrenox with a full glass of water.
- Aggrenox can be taken with food or without food.
- Aggrenox capsules should be swallowed whole and should not be crushed or chewed. The capsules should not be opened or pulled apart and the contents should not be dissolved in water.
- Take Aggrenox for as long as your doctor directs you to. Do not stop taking Aggrenox without consulting your doctor.
- If you miss a dose and remember before it is time for your next dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose as scheduled. Do not double up on doses.

## What else should I know?

- Do not take additional aspirin unless directed by your doctor. Several products available over-the-counter contain aspirin. Read labels carefully to insure you are not taking too much aspirin.
  - Several over-the-counter medications including Advil or Motrin (ibuprofen) and Aleve (naproxen) can interact with Aggrenox. These medications are components of several combination cough, cold, allergy, and pain medications available over the counter. Ask your doctor or pharmacist before taking any over-the-counter medications.
  - Some herbal supplements such as fish oil, ginkgo, and garlic can affect the way Aggrenox works. Do not take any herbal supplements without the consent of your doctor.
  - Always go to the same pharmacy so your pharmacist can check your complete list of medications for interactions with Aggrenox.
  - Tell all your doctors, dentist, and pharmacist that you take Aggrenox.
  - Aggrenox contains aspirin which can cause stomach irritation. Drinking alcohol can increase this irritation and should be avoided.
  - Store your medication at room temperature away from children, light, and moisture.
  - Aggrenox needs to be discontinued prior to surgery and certain procedures. If you are scheduled for any surgery, discuss this matter with your doctor at least one week in advance.
  - Aggrenox should not be used in pregnancy and should be used with caution in breastfeeding.
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## Are there side effects to Aggrenox?

Tell your doctor *immediately* if you experience any of the following:

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| • Dark, black, red, or bloody stools                         | • Drowsiness or weakness           |
| • Vomiting up blood or a substance resembling coffee grounds | • Ringing in your ears             |
| • Chest pain or palpitations                                 | • Stomach pain                     |
| • Confusion  | • Unusual bleeding or bruising     |
| • Difficulty breathing or wheezing                           | • Red or purple spots on your skin |

**Less serious side effects: Notify your doctor if they persist or are bothersome.**

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| • Diarrhea   | • Nausea or vomiting |
| • Flushing, reddening, or itching of the skin                                    | • Stomach gas        |
| • Headache (common at the beginning of therapy but usually decreases after time) | • Heartburn          |
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**If you have any additional questions regarding your medication, do not hesitate to contact a healthcare professional.**

**Prepared by:**

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**Reference: National Guideline Clearinghouse**

**[www.guidelines.gov](http://www.guidelines.gov)**