

Prepared for patient: _____

Patient counseled by: _____

Plavix

(Clopidogrel)



What is Plavix (clopidogrel)?

- Plavix is the brand name of your medication. Clopidogrel is the generic name for Plavix. Generic Plavix tablets are not currently available.
- Plavix works by helping to prevent blood clots from forming. When blood clots form they can stop blood flow in your body and result in a heart attack or a stroke. Taking Plavix after you have had a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) can decrease your chance of having another stroke or TIA.
- Plavix is usually given as a standard dose of 75 mg by mouth once daily.
- Plavix will not make you “feel better”, but it is a powerful medication that is working inside your body to help prevent future strokes.



How should I take Plavix?

- Plavix should be taken once daily with a full glass of water. Pick a time of the day that is easy for you to remember, like with breakfast, and try to take Plavix at the same time every day.
- Plavix can be taken with food or without food.
- Take Plavix as long as your doctor directs you. Do not stop taking Plavix without consulting your doctor.
- If you miss a dose and remember later in the day, take the 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 aspirin with Plavix unless directed by your doctor.
- Several over-the-counter medications including Advil or Motrin (ibuprofen) and Aleve (naproxen) can interact with Plavix. These medications are components of several combination cough, cold, allergy, and pain medications available over the counter. Ask your pharmacist or doctor before taking any over-the-counter medications.
- Some herbal supplements such as fish oil, ginkgo, and garlic can affect the way Plavix works. Do not take any herbal supplements without the consent of your doctor.
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- Many prescription medications can interact with Plavix. Always go to the same pharmacy so your pharmacist can check your complete list of medications for interactions with Plavix.
 - Always tell your doctors, dentist, and pharmacist that you take Plavix.
 - Store your medication at room temperature away from children, light, and moisture.
 - Plavix needs to be discontinued prior to surgery and certain procedures. If you are scheduled for any surgery, discuss this matter with your doctor.
 - Plavix should be taken only during pregnancy if needed, and its effects on breastfeeding are unknown.
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Are there side effects to Plavix?

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

- Dark, black, red, or bloody stools
- Vomiting up blood or a substance resembling coffee grounds
- Red or bloody urine
- Nosebleeds
- Skin rash, itching, hives, allergic reaction
- Stomach pain
- Yellowing of skin or eyes
- Red or purple spots on your skin
- Difficulty breathing, swallowing, hoarseness, or tightness of throat
- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Unusually heavy menstrual bleeding
- Fever and bleeding under the skin

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

- Diarrhea
- Indigestion
- Mild stomach upset

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