Aspirin/Extended Release Dipyridamole (Aggrenox®)

What is Aspirin/Extended Release Dipyridamole?
Aspirin/extended release dipyridamole, (Aggrenox®), is used to reduce the risk of stroke if you have had blood clots or a transient ischemic attack (TIA).

How does it work?
Aspirin works in reducing pain, fever, and inflammation. Dipyridamole helps keep platelets in your blood from sticking together to form clots. When clots are formed, there is a risk that the clot will travel to the brain, which could cause a stroke by causing a blockage in a blood vessel.

What is my responsibility as the patient?
- Take medication exactly as your health care provider directs.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose.
- Do not double doses.
- Do not use other over-the-counter medications without asking your health care provider first.
- Tell your health care provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or plan to breastfeed.
- Do not stop taking Aggrenox® unless told to by your health care provider.
- Aggrenox® makes it easier for you to bleed. Contact your health care provider or seek medical attention if you fall or hit your head.
- If you plan to have surgery or dental work, let your surgeon or dentist know beforehand that you are taking Aggrenox®.
What are the dosing instructions?

- You can take Aggrenox® with or without food
- Store Aggrenox® in its original container at room temperature, away from moisture and heat.
- Do not use if you have asthma or polyps in your nose.
- Do not use if you are allergic to aspirin or NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs).
- Do not chew, break, or open capsule. Swallow capsule whole.

What other drugs does Aspirin/Extended Release Dipyridamole interact with?

Talk to your doctor if you are taking any of these medications.

- Acetazolamide
- Methotrexate
- Probenecid
- Heart or blood pressure medication, including a diuretic
- Alzheimer’s disease medications
- Blood thinners (Warfarin/Coumadin®)
- Seizure medications
- NSAIDs: aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib, etc.
- Other medications used to treat or prevent blood clots: heparin, clopidogrel, etc.

What activities should I avoid?

- Avoid drinking alcohol while on Aggrenox®. Alcohol can increase your risk of stomach bleeding.
What should I be watching for?

- Aggrenox often causes patients to have a headache when they first start taking the medication. After a few weeks, the headache usually goes away. If your headache does not resolve after a few weeks, call your doctor.

- Call your health care provider or seek medical attention if you have:
  - bleeding that does not stop
  - black or bloody stools
  - Coffee ground-like vomit or coughed up blood
  - New or worsening chest pain
  - A light-headed feeling or fainting
  - Hearing problems or ringing in your ears
  - Nausea
  - Upper stomach pain
  - Itching
  - Tiredness
  - Loss of appetite
  - Dark urine
  - Clay-colored stools
  - Jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes)
  - Severe heartburn
  - Memory problems
  - Severe headache