

# Aspirin/Extended Release Dipyridamole (Aggrenox®)

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## **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

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Author: Anne Mcleod RN DNPc  
Reviewers: Eric Adelman MD

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