



What is Clopidogrel?

Clopidogrel, known under the brand name Plavix®, is an antiplatelet agent that helps prevent thrombus formation, which is when platelets in your blood stick together and form a clot. A thrombus can cause blockages in blood vessels. These blockages can cause stroke, heart attack, acute coronary syndrome, or peripheral vascular disease.

What are my responsibilities as the patient?

- Take Clopidogrel exactly as your health care provider directs.
- Take missed doses as soon as possible unless it's almost time for the next dose.
- Do not double doses.
- Do not stop taking Clopidogrel without speaking to your health care provider as there is an increased risk for cardiovascular events.
- If you plan to have surgery or dental work done, let your surgeon or dentist know beforehand that you are taking Clopidogrel.
- Tell your health care provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, or plan to breastfeed.
- Notify your health care provider of all prescriptions, over the counter medications, vitamins, or herbal products, especially those that contain aspirin or NSAIDs.

What are the dosing instructions?

- Clopidogrel can be taken with or without food.

What other drugs does Clopidogrel interact with?

Certain medications can be harmful if you take them with clopidogrel. Those include:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, also called NSAIDs and include aspirin (such as Bayer®, Bufferin® Excedrin®), ibuprofen (Advil®, Motrin®) and Naproxen (Aleve®)

- Blood thinners such as Warfarin/Coumadin®

What activities should I avoid?

- Avoid drinking alcohol as it may increase your risk for bleeding in your stomach or intestines.
- Avoid activities that may increase your risk of bleeding or injury. Use extra care when shaving or brushing your teeth.

What should I be looking for?

Notify your health care provider or seek medical attention if you experience:

- Bleeding that will not stop
- Bloody or tarry stools
- Chest pain or pressure
- Pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder
- Coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- Fever
- Sudden numbness or weakness
- Slurred speech
- Problems with vision or balance
- Jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes)
- Chills or sweating
- Sore throat
- Unusual bleeding or bruising

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