

TAKING CLOPIDOGREL (PLAVIX®)



Your doctor prescribed clopidogrel to keep blood clots from forming in the vessels that feed the brain. It may also be prescribed to prevent blood clots from forming in stents.



Clopidogrel along with other medicines will help prevent stroke



Clopidogrel is taken once per day with or without food



Because clopidogrel prevents blood clots, people who take clopidogrel everyday have a slightly higher risk of bleeding or bruising

TELL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE:



Bleeding gums



Bruising too much



Nose bleeds

CALL YOUR DOCTOR OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM IF YOU DEVELOP:



Difficulty breathing or wheezing



Stomach pain/vomiting blood



Black or bloody stools



Severe headache with nausea

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



Take clopidogrel at the same time everyday

- Do not stop taking clopidogrel without talking to your doctor



If you miss a dose:

- If it is within 12 hours of usually taking it, take the missed dose and continue with taking clopidogrel as usual the next day
- If it is more than 12 hours, skip the dose and take the next dose at the usual time the next day
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time
- Make an appointment with your doctor before your prescription runs out



Ask about medicines that might interfere with clopidogrel and lead to more bleeding. For example, some medicine used for pain relief and available without prescription, such as ibuprofen (also known as Advil®, Motrin®), may increase your risk of bleeding with clopidogrel and should not be taken unless indicated by your doctor.



Tell your pharmacist or doctor all the medicines that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (for example ginkgo) or recreational drugs.



Report any side effects to your doctor or pharmacist so that they can give you tips on how to minimize them.



TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OR ARE HAVING TROUBLE TAKING YOUR MEDICATIONS