Aspirin

Aspirin is used to treat pain, headaches and cramps. It is also used to treat fever, arthritis, or inflammation in the body. It may also be used to reduce the chance of blood clotting and the risk of heart attack or stroke. It is common for people who have heart surgery with stent placement to need lifelong treatment with aspirin.

Aspirin is part of a medicine group called Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs). Other common medicines that are also NSAIDs are Naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn), Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Celecoxib (Celebrex), etc.

Talk with your doctor if you plan to use aspirin together with another NSAID medicine as this combination should be avoided in some patients.

If your doctor approves use of aspirin with another NSAID, they may also order a medicine to limit acid production in your stomach or your doctor may provide special instructions for timing of when to take aspirin (for example, one hour before ibuprofen to allow aspirin time for full effect).

How to Take Aspirin

- Take this medicine by mouth with food or milk. Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use (dose). Do not take more medicine than prescribed.
- If you are using this medicine without a prescription, follow the instructions on the medicine label.
- Swallow the tablet, capsule or coated tablet whole. Do not crush, chew or break it. The chewable tablet may be chewed or swallowed whole.

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• The term “baby aspirin” is sometimes used for the 81 milligram (mg) small dose.

• If you have ASA chewing gum that contains aspirin, completely chew the gum to make sure you get as much medicine as possible. Drink a full glass (8 ounces) of water after chewing the gum.

• **If you miss a dose**, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

• **Do not stop taking this medicine unless you are told to do so by your doctor. If you have an upcoming scheduled surgery, be sure to ask your doctor if you should continue aspirin therapy.**

**When Taking Aspirin**

• Tell your doctor pharmacist what vitamins, herbs or supplements you are taking to avoid possible interactions with this medicine.

• Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, if you have asthma, kidney problems, history of ulcers, or history of bleeding.

• Tell your doctor is you have diabetes or trouble controlling your blood sugar. Aspirin can cause trouble with urine tests involving sugar.

• Tell your doctor if you are on a blood thinner, such as Warfarin (Coumadin), Dabigatran (Pradaxa), or Rivaroxaban (Xarelto).

• Tell your doctor if you take a Cortisone steroid (Prednisone) or Methotrexate.

• Tell your doctor if you are taking medicine that affects platelets, such as Ticagrelor (Brilenta), Ticlopidine (Ticlid) or Dypridamole (Persantine).

**Avoid Aspirin if:**

• You have had an allergic reaction to aspirin or to pain and arthritis medicine (such as Motrin, Advil, or Naprosyn).

• You have an active stomach ulcer or any kind of bleeding problem.

• You have been drinking alcohol. Avoid alcohol while taking aspirin as it can cause stomach bleeding.
Medicine Storage
Store the medicine in a tightly closed container at room temperature, away from heat and moisture. Keep medicine out of the reach of children.

Side Effects
Possible side effects while using this medicine may include:
- Upset stomach
- Heartburn

Contact your doctor right away if you have these signs:
- Severe stomach pain
- Blood in stools or stool that looks like tar
- Blood in vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- Blood in urine or pink colored urine
- Swelling in the face or around the eyes
- Skin rash or hives with itching
- Breathing problems
- Feel dizzy or extreme fatigue
- Ringing in the ears
- Severe bruising