

Clopidogrel



The Heart Centre

4480 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4
604-875-2120 • 1-888-300-3088
Emergency call: 604-875-2161
(ask for Cardiologist on call)
www.bcchildrens.ca

What is Clopidogrel (Plavix, Apo-Clopidogrel)?

Clopidogrel (Kloh-PID-oh-grel) is a medication that is used to thin the blood and lessen the risk of blood clots to the brain(stroke), heart or lungs. It works by making the platelets less sticky in the blood. It may be used if you have an artificial heart valve or after certain types of heart surgery. It may be used alone or with Aspirin® (ASA).

Clopidogrel comes in tablet and liquid (suspension) forms.

How do I give this medicine?

- ▶ Shake well if liquid form
- ▶ Give ___ mL or ___ tablet(s)(= _____mg) _____ times a day by mouth/NG or GT
- ▶ It may be given with or without food

How is this medication stored?

- ▶ Store liquid in fridge
- ▶ Keep tablets at room temperature away from sunlight
- ▶ Keep tablets away from moist and damp places
- ▶ Keep medication out of the reach of small children

What should I do if a dose is missed?

- ▶ Give the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is close to the time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the normal time.
- ▶ Do **not** double up the dose.
- ▶ If your child vomits within 30 minutes after a dose - give a new dose. If longer than 30 minutes then wait until next normal medication time.

Possible common side effects:

- Mild stomach cramps
- Your child may bruise or bleed more easily and for a longer time. Apply pressure if needed
- Mild bleeding or bruising such as bleeding gums with toothbrushing

Call cardiologist, cardiology clinic or seek care if your child has any of the following:

- ▶ Skin rash or any lip swelling.
- ▶ Severe bleeding (eg nose bleeds that last longer than 30 minutes or blood in the stools, urine or vomit).



Call 911 if any new shortness of breath or problems with breathing

Other notes or special instructions:

- If the child has taken or been given an extra dose and you are worried call Healthlink BC at 811
- If your child accidentally has taken or been given an overdose call:



BC Drug and Poison Centre:
1-800-567-8911 • 604 -682-5050

- ▶ Before any kind of surgery (even dental), tell the doctor or dentist that your child is taking clopidogrel. They may tell you to stop the medication before the procedure and when to restart it.
- ▶ Don't give with any grapefruit juice. The effect of the clopidogrel may be decreased.
- ▶ Check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medications, over the counter medication, or herbal products.
- ▶ Your child can take acetaminophen (Tylenol) if needed for pain control or fevers.
- ▶ Don't give ibuprofen (Advil) as it will increase the risk of bleeding while your child is on clopidogrel.
- ▶ Your doctor may check bloodwork if your child is on the medication for a long time.
- ▶ Clopidogrel liquid must be made by a specialized pharmacy. Check with your pharmacy that they can make clopidogrel liquid for your child.
- ▶ Check expiry date of liquid.

Developed by the Departments of Pharmacy and Cardiology with assistance from the Department of Learning & Development.

References: upon request • Last updated: Apr.28.2016

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