

Medication Guide

Clopidogrel Tablets

(kloe pid' oh grel)

Read this Medication Guide before you start taking clopidogrel tablets and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This Medication Guide does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about clopidogrel tablets?

- 1. Clopidogrel tablets may not work as well in people who:**
 - **have certain genetic factors that affect how the body breaks down clopidogrel.** Your doctor may do genetic tests to make sure clopidogrel tablets are right for you.
 - **take certain medicines, especially omeprazole (Prilosec®) or esomeprazole (Nexium®).** Your doctor may change the medicine you take for stomach acid problems while you take clopidogrel tablets.
- 2. Clopidogrel tablets can cause bleeding which can be serious and can sometimes lead to death.** Clopidogrel tablets are a blood thinner medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body. While you take clopidogrel tablets:
 - you may bruise and bleed more easily
 - you are more likely to have nose bleeds
 - it will take longer for any bleeding to stop

Call your doctor right away if you have any of these signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time
- blood in your urine (pink, red or brown urine)
- red or black stools (looks like tar)
- bruises that happen without a known cause or get larger
- cough up blood or blood clots
- vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds

Do not stop taking clopidogrel tablets without talking to the doctor who prescribes it for you. People who stop taking clopidogrel tablets too soon have a higher risk of having a heart attack or dying. If you must stop clopidogrel tablets because of bleeding, your risk of a heart attack may be higher.

What are clopidogrel tablets?

Clopidogrel tablets are a prescription medicine used to treat people who have any of the following:

- chest pain due to heart problems
- poor circulation in their legs (peripheral arterial disease)
- a heart attack
- a stroke

Clopidogrel tablets are used alone or with aspirin to lower your chance of having another serious problem with your heart or blood vessels such as heart attack, stroke, or blood clot that can lead to death.

Platelets are blood cells that help your blood clot normally. Clopidogrel tablets help to prevent platelets from sticking together and forming a clot that can block an artery.

It is not known if clopidogrel tablets are safe and effective in children.

Who should not take clopidogrel tablets?

Do not take clopidogrel tablets if you:

- currently have a condition that causes bleeding, such as a stomach ulcer
- are allergic to clopidogrel or other ingredients in clopidogrel tablets. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in clopidogrel tablets.

What should I tell my doctor before taking clopidogrel tablets?

Before you take clopidogrel tablets, tell your doctor if you:

- have a history of bowel (gastrointestinal) or stomach ulcers.
- have a history of bleeding problems.
- plan to have surgery or a dental procedure. See “**How should I take clopidogrel tablets?**”
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if clopidogrel will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if clopidogrel passes into your breast milk. A decision should be made with your healthcare provider to avoid or discontinue breastfeeding when continuing clopidogrel tablets is needed.
- have had an allergy or reaction to any medicine used to treat your disease.

Tell all of your doctors and your dentist that you are taking clopidogrel tablets. They should talk to the doctor who prescribed clopidogrel tablets for you before you have any surgery or invasive procedure.

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take, including prescription, non-prescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements.

Clopidogrel tablets may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how clopidogrel works. See “**What is the most important information I should know about clopidogrel tablets?**”

Clopidogrel may increase blood levels of other medicines such as repaglinide (Prandin®).

Taking clopidogrel tablets with certain other medicines may increase your risk of bleeding.

Especially tell your doctor if you take:

- aspirin, especially if you have had a stroke. Always talk to your doctor about whether you should take aspirin along with clopidogrel tablets to treat your condition.
- nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a list of NSAID medicines if you are not sure.
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®).
- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs). Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a list of SSRI or SNRI medicines if you are not sure.
- rifampin (used to treat severe infections)
- other antiplatelet agents

