

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

CLOPIDOGREL TICLOPIDINE

ABOUT your medicine

Ticlopidine and clopidogrel are used to lessen the chance of having a stroke. They are given to people who have already had a stroke and to people with certain medical problems that could lead to a stroke.

A stroke may occur when blood flow to the brain is interrupted by a blood clot. Ticlopidine and clopidogrel both reduce the possibility of forming a harmful blood clot. However, it may increase the chance of serious bleeding in some people.

Before using this medicine, inform your doctor if you:

- are allergic to ticlopidine or clopidogrel.
- are pregnant or are breast-feeding.
- are going for surgery (including dental), as there is a risk of increased blood loss.
- have other medical problems, for instance:
 - Low platelets (thrombocytopenia)
 - Haemophilia
 - Liver impairment
 - Kidney impairment
 - Recent surgery

HOW should I take the medicine?

Your doctor will determine the amount of medicine you should take based on the severity of your condition. Take this medicine in the dose prescribed by your doctor. Take with food to avoid stomach upset.

Consult your pharmacist if you are not sure of the correct way to take your medicine.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not double your dose or take extra medicine to make up for a missed dose. If you have missed several doses, please call your physician to check what you should do.

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Call your doctor right away if you have any of these side-effects:

- Allergic reaction - Itch or hives, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, tightness in chest or difficulty breathing
- Blistering, peeling red skin rash
- Dark-colored urine or pale stool
- Fever, chills, sore throat
- Numbness, tingling, or burning pain in your hands, arms, legs or feet
- Red pinpoint spots on the skin
- Severe diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite or pain in the upper stomach
- Unusual bleeding, bruising or weakness
- Yellow skin or eyes

Talk with your doctor if you have problems with these less serious side-effects:

- Bloating, gas, stomach pain or upset
- Dizziness
- Mild diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite
- Mild skin rash

Keep all medication out of reach of children

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

This medicine can lower the number of certain types of blood cells in your body. Because of this, you may bruise/bleed more easily. It is very important that blood tests are carried out while taking ticlopidine or clopidogrel to monitor that these side-effects are not occurring. Your doctor will arrange for the blood tests to be done. Be sure not to miss any appointment for these tests. After the first 3 months of treatment, you will not need to have blood tests so often.

Inform your doctors, dentists, nurses, and pharmacists that you are taking this medicine. Ticlopidine or clopidogrel may increase the risk of serious bleeding during an operation including dental work. You may need to stop using this medicine prior to surgery.

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.

You must tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine. The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following: swollen face/eyes/lips, difficulty in breathing or widespread itchy skin rashes.

Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a dry place at room temperature, away from heat and direct light. Do not refrigerate your medicines unless instructed to do so.

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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