

# Plavix<sup>®</sup> (Clopidogrel)

## What is Plavix (Clopidogrel)?

It is a medicine that lowers your chance of getting blood clots. It keeps platelets (cells in your blood) from grouping together. This will lower your risk for stroke or heart attack.

## How Is It Given?

Plavix is a tablet you swallow with water.

It is important you take it at the same time each day.

Do not stop taking Plavix without talking to your doctor.

## Are There Precautions?

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription, over-the-counter, minerals, vitamins, herbal and natural products you are taking or plan to take.
- Ask your doctor before you take any medicine that may thin your blood. This includes:
  - aspirin or products that contain aspirin or acetylsalicylic acid (another name for aspirin), such as Excedrin<sup>®</sup>
  - NSAIDs: ibuprofen (Advil<sup>®</sup>, Motrin<sup>®</sup>, Nuprin<sup>®</sup>) or naproxen (Aleve<sup>®</sup>, Naprosyn<sup>®</sup>).

- Ask your doctor before you take a medicine used for stomach upset or reflux. This includes:
  - omeprazole (Prilosec<sup>®</sup>)
  - lansoprazole (Prevacid<sup>®</sup>)
  - esomeprazole (Nexium<sup>®</sup>).

## What Side Effects May Occur?

The most common side effects are upset stomach and bleeding.

You may bleed or bruise more easily or for a longer time when taking Plavix.

## When To Call Your Doctor?

Call your doctor if you have signs of severe bleeding:

- new, severe headache that does not go away
- heavy bruising
- dark stools
- blood in urine
- bleeding that does not stop.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information or if you have questions about this medicine.