Clopidogrel AN tablets

Clopidogrel (as hydrogen sulfate)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Clopidogrel AN tablets. It does not contain all the available information. Some of the information it contains may not apply to you. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have benefits and risks. In deciding to give you Clopidogrel AN tablets, your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Clopidogrel AN tablets against the expected benefits it will have for you.

Always follow the instructions that your doctor and pharmacist give you about Clopidogrel AN tablets.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

What Clopidogrel AN is used for

Clopidogrel AN tablets contain the medicine clopidogrel. Clopidogrel AN tablets belong to a group of medicines called antiplatelet medicines.

Platelets are very small blood cells which clump together during blood clotting. By preventing this clumping, antiplatelet medicines reduce the chances of blood clots forming (a process called thrombosis).

Clopidogrel AN tablets are used to prevent blood clots forming in hardened blood vessels (a process known as atherothrombosis) which can lead to events such as stroke, heart attack or death.

You may have been prescribed Clopidogrel AN tablets to help prevent blood clots forming and to reduce the risk of stroke, heart attack and death because:

- You have previously suffered a heart attack, stroke or have a condition known as peripheral arterial disease (leg pain on walking or at rest).
- You have suffered Acute Coronary Syndrome (either a severe type of chest pain called unstable angina, or a heart attack). In this case you may also be prescribed aspirin.

Your doctor may have prescribed this medicine for another use. If you want more information, ask your doctor.

Clopidogrel AN tablets are only available on a doctor's prescription.

Before you take Clopidogrel AN

When you must not take CLOPIDOGREL AN

You should not take Clopidogrel AN tablets if:

- you are allergic to clopidogrel or any of the ingredients listed under 'Product Description' at the end of this leaflet.
- you have a medical condition that is causing bleeding such as a stomach ulcer or bleeding within your head.
- you suffer from severe liver disease.
- you are breast feeding or intend to breast feed. Clopidogrel AN tablets passes into breast milk and, therefore, there is the possibility that the breast fed baby may be affected.
- the packaging shows signs of tampering.
- the expiry date on the pack has passed. If you use this product after the expiry date has passed, it may not work.

Do not take Clopidogrel AN tablets to treat any other complaint unless your doctor says it is safe. Do not give this medicine to anyone else.

Clopidogrel AN tablets are not recommended for children as its safety and effectiveness in children have not been established.

Before you start to take CLOPIDOGREL AN

Tell your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of taking Clopidogrel AN tablets during pregnancy.
- You are planning to have an operation (including dental surgery) in the next two weeks. Your doctor will decide whether or not you need to stop Clopidogrel AN tablets prior to surgery.
- If you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:
  - bleeding disorders or blood clotting problems
  - any illness or disability that was caused by bleeding, for example impaired sight or vision because of bleeding within the eye
  - recent serious injury
  - recent surgery (including dental surgery)
  - any form of liver disease

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking Clopidogrel AN tablets.

Some patients may not convert Clopidogrel AN tablets to its active form as well as other patients. These patients may not get the same benefit from Clopidogrel AN tablets. Your doctor may advise you to go for tests to determine if Clopidogrel AN tablets will adequately work for you. Based on the test results, your doctor may change your dose of Clopidogrel AN tablets or consider alternative treatments for you.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food store. Some medicines and Clopidogrel AN tablets may interfere with each other. These include:

- medicines that "thin the blood". The most common examples of these include aspirin, heparins and warfarin. There are others so please check with your doctor.
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) - medicines used to treat arthritis, period pain, aches and pains.
- medicines used to treat stomach ulcers or reflux disease (also called heartburn).
- phenytoin - a medicine used to treat epilepsy.
- tolbutamide - a medicine used to treat diabetes.
- tamoxifen - a medicine used to treat breast cancer.
- fluvastatin - a medicine used to lower cholesterol.

These medicines may be affected by Clopidogrel AN tablets or affect how well Clopidogrel AN tablets work.

Your doctor may need to change the amount of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

If you are unsure about any medicine you are taking you should check with your doctor or pharmacist. They will have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Clopidogrel AN tablets.

How to take CLOPIDOGREL AN

Your doctor will tell you how many tablets to take each day. Take Clopidogrel AN tablets only as prescribed by your doctor and follow his or her directions carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

The usual dose of Clopidogrel AN tablets is one 75 mg tablet daily.

If you are prescribed Clopidogrel AN tablets for the treatment of Acute Coronary Syndrome, you may receive a starting dose of 300 mg (four 75 mg tablets), then one 75 mg tablet daily.

You can take Clopidogrel AN tablets before or after meals. You should swallow the tablet with a glass of water.

Take Clopidogrel AN tablets at about the same time each day. Taking your tablet at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you to remember when to take it.

You should take Clopidogrel AN tablets for as long as your doctor continues to prescribe it.

If you forget to take CLOPIDOGREL AN

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26), or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Clopidogrel AN tablets. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

While you are taking Clopidogrel AN

Things you must do

- Take Clopidogrel AN tablets exactly as your doctor has prescribed, and have any blood tests promptly if your doctor orders them.
- Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking Clopidogrel AN tablets.
Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Clopidogrel AN tablets. Like other medicines Clopidogrel AN tablets can cause some side effects. Most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:
- diarrhoea
- itching
- pain or stiffness in the joints
- things taste different.