

Aspirin 300mg tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

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1 What Aspirin tablets are and what they are used for

Aspirin tablets belong to a group of medicines which have analgesic (pain relieving), anti-inflammatory (inflammation reducing) and antipyretic (temperature reducing) properties. These tablets may be used for the relief of:

- headache, toothache, migraine, neuralgia (nerve pain), sore throat or period pains.
- symptoms of influenza, feverishness, rheumatic pains, sciatica (nerve pain of the leg/back), lumbago (lower back pain), fibrositis (muscular rheumatism), muscular aches and pains.

The tablets may also be used to prevent blood clots especially after a heart attack or in patients with unstable angina or reduced blood flow in the brain.

2 Before you take

Do not take Aspirin tablets and **tell** your doctor if you have:

- an **allergy** (hypersensitivity) to aspirin, salicylates or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or other ingredients in the product. You may have developed difficulty breathing, a runny nose, itchy skin or swelling after taking aspirin or a NSAID previously (see section 6)
- a **stomach ulcer** or a history of ulcers or **indigestion**
- **nasal polyps** associated with **asthma**
- **haemophilia** or other **blood clotting** disorder or are taking medicines to thin the blood
- **severe** liver, kidney or heart failure
- are in the **third** trimester of pregnancy
- the patient is a child **under 16** years old.

Important warning:

There is a possible association between aspirin and Reye's Syndrome when given to children. Reye's syndrome is a very rare disease, which can be fatal. For this reason aspirin should not be given to children aged under 16 years, unless on the advice of a doctor.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Aspirin tablets if you have:

- **asthma** or **allergies**
- **heart, liver** or **kidney** problems or **gout**
- an **overactive thyroid** gland
- **dehydration**
- **anaemia** or suffer from a deficiency of the enzyme glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (**G6PD**) this can cause episodes of anaemia after eating certain foods such as fava beans (favism)
- systemic lupus erythematosus (**SLE**) or other connective tissue disease
- **elderly**
- had any disorders affecting blood vessels in the **brain**
- received a **varicella (chickenpox) vaccination** within the last 6 weeks
- planning to become **pregnant**.

Taking other medicines

Please **tell your doctor or pharmacist** if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Especially:

- medicines to prevent blood clotting such as warfarin, dipyridamole and heparin

- metoclopramide or domperidone (to prevent sickness)
- diuretics (“water tablets”) e.g. spironolactone, frusemide, acetazolamide (to treat high blood pressure)
- medicines which make your urine more alkaline such as antacids, citrates
- probenecid, sulphapyrazone (to treat gout)
- methotrexate (to treat some cancers, psoriasis and rheumatic disease)
- antidiabetics
- phenytoin or sodium valproate (to treat epilepsy)
- corticosteroids (to suppress the immune system)
- mifepristone (to induce abortion)
- other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs - NSAIDs (eg ibuprofen or naproxen)
- medicines which can cause hearing problems (vancomycin)
- medicines to treat high blood pressure (ACE inhibitors, Calcium channel blockers)
- medicines to treat depression (SSRIs)
- varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. Aspirin should be avoided for 6 weeks after vaccination
- herbal medicines containing ginkgo biloba

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Avoid taking Aspirin tablets during pregnancy especially in the last 3 months of pregnancy or whilst breast-feeding. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Surgery and tests

If you need to have an operation including having your teeth removed or blood and urine tests, tell your doctor or dentist you are taking this medicine.

3 How to take

Always take Aspirin tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. If you are not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Avoid alcohol whilst taking this medicine.

Swallow the tablets with a **glass of water**.

Doses:

Adults, including the elderly: 1 or 2 tablets every 3 to 4 hours as required. No more than 12 tablets in any 24 hour period.

Children under 16 years old: Not recommended.

For prevention of blood clots: 1 tablet once a day

If you take more than you should

If you (or someone else) swallow a lot of tablets at the same time, or you think a child may have swallowed any contact your nearest hospital casualty department or tell your doctor immediately. Symptoms of an overdose include ringing in the ears, spinning sensation, fast breathing rate, changes in some of the chemicals in the body, heart or kidney failure, fever or coma.

If you forget to take the tablets

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose take it as soon as you remember it and then take the next dose at the right time.

Do not take more than one dose in any 4 hour period.

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4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Aspirin tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following effects or any effects not listed.

Allergic reactions - runny nose, itchy, red, blotchy, blistered skin, swelling of the face, lips, throat or tongue, difficulty breathing, worsening of asthma.

Gastrointestinal system - stomach ulcers or bleeding which can be severe (you may develop bloody or black tarry stools, severe stomach pain and vomit blood), stomach irritation (mild stomach pain, heartburn and feeling or being sick) and inflammation of the liver. Deaths have occurred.

Blood - anaemia, changes in numbers and types of blood cells and enzymes seen in blood tests. If you have an increase in number of nose bleeds, longer bleeding time or notice that you bruise more easily or have more infections talk to your doctor.

Kidney - changes in the amount or need to urinate.

Ears - ringing or buzzing in the ear.

Salicylism - if you take large doses for a long time you may develop symptoms of salicylism, these include: dizziness, ringing or buzzing in the ear, deafness, sweating, feeling or being sick, headache and confusion.

If you are concerned about any side-effects or have any other unusual effects, tell your doctor immediately and seek advice.

5 How to store

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Store the tablets below 25°C in a dry place.

Do not use Aspirin tablets after the expiry date stated on the label/carton/bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6 Further information

What Aspirin tablets contain

- The active substance (the ingredient that makes the tablets work) is 300mg aspirin (also known as acetylsalicylic acid).
- The other ingredients are maize starch, purified talc (E553).

What Aspirin tablets look like and contents of the pack

Aspirin are white, uncoated tablets.

Pack sizes are 28 and 100 tablets.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and manufacturer

Actavis, Barnstaple, EX32 8NS, UK.

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actavis

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