

ASPIRIN (for pain)

ass-prin

What does it do?

Aspirin reduces pain, inflammation and fever.

How should you take it?

Take *aspirin* tablets with food and a glass of water.

Swallow the coated tablets whole. Do not crush or chew them.

Dissolve the soluble tablets in water before taking.

Remove the wrapper before inserting the suppositories into the rectum.

What if you forget a dose?

If you take *aspirin* regularly and it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *aspirin* including:

- anti-inflammatories, such as diclofenac (e.g. Voltaren®), or ibuprofen (e.g. Nurofen®). These can also be found in some cold and flu medicines (e.g. Nurofen Cold and Flu®), and creams or gels (e.g. Voltaren Emulgel®).
- low-dose *aspirin* (e.g. Cartia®)

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Stomach pain, coughing or vomiting of blood, black bowel motions Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Reduced number of blood cells that help your blood to clot - symptoms include: easy or unusual bruising or bleeding | Tell your doctor immediately |
| ringing in the ears | Tell your doctor |
| Indigestion, nausea Anal irritation with suppository use | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Tell your doctor if you have stomach, liver, kidney, or bleeding problems, or if you have high blood pressure, G6PD deficiency or asthma.
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had problems with anti-inflammatories.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- *Aspirin* should not be used in children without medical advice.
- In most cases, paracetamol and/or codeine may be safely used while taking *aspirin*.