

BLOOD THINNERS

(Antiplatelets)

**Enteric Coated ASA 81 mg
(Aspirin®)**

**Ticagrelor 90 mg
(Brilinta®)**

*Blood thinners (antiplatelets) lower the risk of having another heart attack. They work by preventing the formation of clots in your heart arteries. This is especially important if you have stents placed in one or more of your heart arteries. You will need to take both ASA (Aspirin®) and ticagrelor (Brilinta®) after having stents placed. It is important that you take these medications exactly as prescribed. **MAKE SURE THAT YOU FILL YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ASA (Aspirin®) AND TICAGRELOR (Brilinta®) as soon as you leave hospital. NEVER stop taking these drugs without talking to your heart doctor, even if told to do so by another healthcare provider.***

1. ASA (Aspirin®) is taken ONCE daily, and ticagrelor (Brilinta®) is taken TWICE daily. Take them at the same times, best suited to you, every day. It is very important not to miss any doses, especially if you have had one or more stents placed. Missed doses can increase the risk of forming clots in your stent(s). This may lead to another heart attack. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember unless it is almost time for the next dose. DO

NOT take extra medication to make up the missed dose. While you are taking ticagrelor (Brilinta®), do not take more ASA (Aspirin®) than you are prescribed.

2. These medications do not need to be taken with food, but some people may find ASA (Aspirin®) better tolerated with food since it can irritate the stomach.



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3. ASA (Aspirin®) and ticagrelor (Brilinta®) can increase your risk of bleeding. If you get a cut or nosebleed, apply pressure for several minutes until the bleeding stops. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these side effects:

- Bad stomach pain
- Bloody vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- Blood in your stools or urine, black tarry stools
- Unusual or excessive bleeding or bruising

Less severe side effects are upset stomach, easy bruising, and heartburn (acid reflux). Tell your pharmacist or other healthcare provider if these are a problem for you.

4. Some people who take ticagrelor (Brilinta®) may feel short of breath sometimes. As long as this feeling is not very bad and goes away after a few minutes, it is normal. Tell your pharmacist or other healthcare provider if this side effect is a problem for you.

5. Some medications, including over-the-counter and herbal medications, contain things that can thin your blood or interact with ASA (Aspirin®) or ticagrelor (Brilinta®). It is important not to take any extra blood thinners other than the ones prescribed to you by your healthcare provider as this will increase your risk of bleeding. Check with your pharmacist or other healthcare provider before starting any new medication. If you need to take an over-the-counter medication for aches and pains, acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is the safest thing to take.

6. Make sure any doctor(s), dentist(s), or other healthcare providers you see know that you are taking these medications. You may need to stop taking them before some kinds of surgery or dental procedures. But check with your heart doctor first before stopping these medications.

NOTE: This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions, or adverse effects for these medications. Talk to your hospital or community pharmacist for more information or if you have any questions.



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