# Aspirin Considerations for Use*

Non-FDA Approved Indication: Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation

<table>
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<th>Mechanism of Action</th>
<th>Inhibits prostaglandin synthesis and platelet aggregation by inactivating the enzyme cyclooxygenase.</th>
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| **Dosing†**         | **Adult:**  
|                     | With low risk for stroke: 75 to 325 mg PO daily  
|                     | With intermediate or high risk for stroke when warfarin is not suitable: 75 to 325 mg PO daily with clopidogrel  
|                     | **Elderly:** No specific dosage adjustment  
|                     | **Hepatic Impairment:** Avoid with severe impairment  
|                     | **Renal Impairment:** Avoid with severe impairment  |
| **Contraindications**| Hypersensitivity  |
| **Major Side Effects**| Hemorrhagic event, hypersensitivity, Reye’s syndrome, nephrotoxicity  |
| **Dosage forms and Strengths** | PO: 81, 162, 325 mg tablets  |
| **Special Notes** | Oral anticoagulation is more effective than aspirin therapy in patients with atrial fibrillation and intermediate or high risk for stroke.  
|                     | When using aspirin, changes in behavior with nausea and vomiting may be early signs of Reye’s syndrome.  
|                     | The risk to gastrointestinal bleeding increases with patients who are age 60 or older; have stomach ulcers or bleeding problems; or have > 3 alcoholic beverages daily.  
|                     | Some patients with asthma are intolerant to aspirin.  |
| **Counseling** | Discontinue this medication and seek immediate medical help if allergic reaction occurs.  
|                     | Do not otherwise discontinue this medication without talking to the healthcare provider who prescribed it.  
|                     | May take with food to decrease stomach irritation.  
|                     | Report signs and symptoms of bleeding (e.g., unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time; red or black, tarry stool; pink or brown urine; unusual bruising; coughing up blood; vomiting blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds; unexplained pain, swelling, or joint pain; unusual headaches, dizziness, or weakness; recurring nose bleeds)  |

*Refer to prescribing information for more complete information.
†Dosages given in the table may differ from those recommended by the manufacturers.

**Sources:**

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