FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking clopidogrel safely

Plavix · keeps platelets from sticking together

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1 Stopping too soon
Stopping early raises the risk of a heart attack, a stroke, or death.

2 The wrong heartburn medicine
Omeprazole and esomeprazole keep clopidogrel from working well.

3 Adding medicines that raise bleeding risk
Pain relievers, blood thinners and some others. Ask your pharmacist first.

How to take it (mistake #1)

- **Never stop** without talking to the doctor who prescribed it. Refill before you run out.
- **Surgery or dental work?** Tell every doctor and dentist you take it. Your doctor may have you stop it at least 5 days before surgery, and will tell you when to restart.
- **Missed a dose?** Take it as soon as you remember. If it's almost time for your next dose, skip the missed one. Never take 2 doses at once, unless your doctor tells you to.

Heartburn medicine (mistake #2)

- **Omeprazole (Prilosec)** and **esomeprazole (Nexium)**, both sold over the counter, can keep clopidogrel from working well. Taking them at different times doesn't fix it.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist which heartburn medicine is right for you.

Check first (mistake #3)

- Ibuprofen, naproxen, warfarin, other blood thinners, some depression medicines. Aspirin only the way your doctor tells you. Rifampin and repaglinide also interact.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911
Purple spots on the skin or in the mouth, yellow skin or eyes, fever, very pale skin, confusion, or speech changes (possible TTP): get medical help right away.

Call your doctor right away for

- Bleeding that lasts a long time
- Pink, red or brown urine; red or black stools that look like tar
- Bruises that appear for no reason or get larger
- Coughing up or vomiting blood

IMPORTANT
Your genes can matter. Clopidogrel works less well in some people because of their genes. Your doctor may order a genetic test to make sure it's right for you.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

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