

Acetylsalicylic Acid

Generic Name: Acetylsalicylic Acid
<i>Trade Name: Novasen (Canada), Aspirin, ASA, Bufferin</i>
<i>Classification: salicylate, antiplatelet, antipyretic, anti-inflammatory, non-opioid analgesic</i>
<i>Supplied: 80 or 81 mg, 325 mg, 500 mg, 650 mg tabs</i>
Actions (Pharmacodynamics): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticoagulant: at low doses, appears to impede clotting by blocking prostaglandin synthesis, which prevents formation of platelet-aggregating substance thromboxane A₂ (this is irreversible and can prolong bleeding time) • Analgesia/anti-inflammatory: inhibits the synthesis of prostaglandin, preventing or reducing pain • Antipyretic: acts on the hypothalamus to produce peripheral vasodilation causing sweating which leads to heat loss and cooling by evaporation
Indications: Acute coronary syndromes suggestive of an acute myocardial infarction
Dosage: Adult: 160-325 mg chewed as soon as possible *Note: Give even if patient has taken ASA (doses higher than 1000 mg may limit beneficial effect)
Contraindications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypersensitivity: SEVERE allergy (known) • Bleeding disorders (hemophilia, von Willebrand's disease) • Unconsciousness • Active GI bleed • Asthmatic with past hx of sensitivity
Precautions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active ulcer disease, asthma • Impaired renal and hepatic function • May produce bronchoconstriction in asthmatics • Children and adolescents with influenza or chickenpox infections (May increase the risk of Reye's syndrome) • Reye's syndrome is a rare but serious illness in childhood that has a mortality rate of 20-30%. Symptoms are encephalopathy and fatty liver degeneration
Note: The effects of a single dose of aspirin persist for the life of the platelet (about 8 days)