

Title: Proton pump inhibitors should not be used as prophylaxis for gastrointestinal bleeding in patients taking clopidogrel

Author: Michelle Royzman

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Abstract: Patients started on anti-platelet therapy with clopidogrel should not be started on a proton pump inhibitor as prophylaxis for GI bleeding due to the increased incidence of re-hospitalization and revascularization procedures when taking a PPI with clopidogrel.

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Where to find more information

The information about taking a PPI with clopidogrel is still new and more studies are being done. You should speak with your doctor before making any changes and your doctor is your best source of information.

American Heart Association News Release:

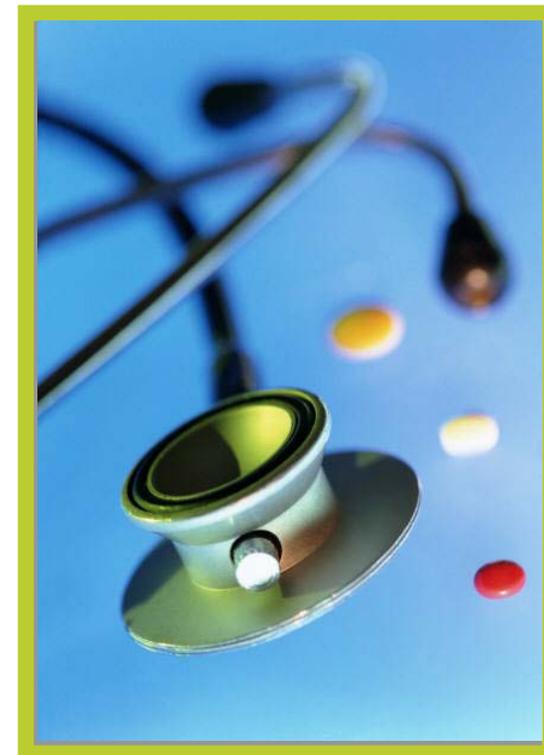
www.americanheart.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=896

FDA Public Health Advisory:

www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PublicHealthAdvisories/ucm190825.htm

Pamphlet made by:

Michelle Royzman
University of Minnesota Medical School
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Clopidogrel and Proton Pump Inhibitors

Patient information

Proton Pump Inhibitors + Clopidogrel

Which medications are involved?

Clopidogrel, also known as Plavix, is a medication often given to patients after they have been diagnosed with Acute Coronary Syndrome. Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS) includes people who have had a heart attack or serious chest pains. Clopidogrel acts to thin blood to prevent heart problems. When the blood is thin, there is a chance of bleeding in the stomach. Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are medicines given to help prevent stomach bleeding when a patient is on blood thinners. PPIs are also used to treat acid reflux and other more rare medical conditions. Proton pump inhibitors include Omeprazole (Prilosec), and other medications ending in “-prazole” (Prevacid, Nexium, Protonix).



Why can't they be taken together?

A study published in 2009 showed that patients with ACS who took a PPI with clopidogrel were more likely to be re-hospitalized, have a repeat episode of ACS or have other serious complications. This was in comparison to patients who did not take a PPI with clopidogrel or who took a PPI alone.



What to do if you're taking a proton pump inhibitor with clopidogrel

If you were given a PPI to prevent bleeding:

If you are currently taking clopidogrel with a PPI you should speak with your doctor as soon as possible. Do not stop taking either medication without speaking with your doctor or pharmacist. Your doctor may choose to change your PPI to another medication that will have the same effect and not interfere with the clopidogrel.

If you are taking a PPI for other reasons:

You should continue taking both medications and speak with your doctor as soon as possible. Some diseases require a PPI to get better; your doctor can help you decide on the risks and benefits of continuing the medication and if there are alternative medicines available.