

Aspirin

Names	The generic name is aspirin (as' pir in) and the chemical name is acetylsalicylic acid (ASA). Brand names include Bayer® aspirin, Ecotrin®, and Bufferin®. Aspirin is an ingredient in many combination products including Alka-Seltzer® and Excedrin.
How Do I Take This Medication?	Aspirin comes as a regular, coated (delayed release), or chewable tablets; a powder; gum; and rectal suppository. Extended release tablets are available by prescription.
Why am I Taking Aspirin and How Does it Work?	<p>Aspirin is used to relieve mild to moderate pain; reduce fever, redness, and swelling; and to help prevent blood from clotting.</p> <p>Aspirin is in a group of medications called salicylates. It works by stopping the production of certain natural substances that cause fever, pain, swelling, and blood clots.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin Taking Aspirin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are allergic to aspirin or any other medications• are taking any prescription or nonprescription medications, especially anticoagulants ('blood thinners') such as warfarin (Coumadin®); and corticosteroids such as <i>dexamethasone (Decadron®)</i>, <i>hydrocortisone (Cortef®)</i>, or <i>prednisone (Deltasone®)</i>• have or have ever had asthma, frequent stuffed or runny nose, or nasal polyps.• have frequent heartburn, upset stomach, or stomach pain or if you have ever had ulcers, anemia, bleeding problems, or kidney or liver disease• are pregnant, breast feeding, or trying to become pregnant
How Should I Take Aspirin?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regular, coated, and extended-release aspirin tablets and capsules should be swallowed with a full glass of water or taken after meals to avoid stomach upset.• Swallow the extended-release tablets whole with a full glass of water. Do not break, crush, or chew extended-release tablets.

- Chewable aspirin tablets may be chewed, crushed, or swallowed whole.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

Although side effects from aspirin are not common, they can occur. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- heartburn or upset stomach
- nausea or vomiting

When To Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- any sign of an allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face, mouth, throat or hands, chest tightness, trouble breathing, or fast or irregular heartbeat
- ringing in the ears or loss of hearing
- unusual bruising or bleeding: bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)

What Else Should I Know About Aspirin?

- If you have diabetes, talk to your doctor about proper monitoring of your blood sugar while taking aspirin.
- Aspirin is also available in combination with other medications such as antacids, pain relievers, and cough and cold medications. If you are taking a combination product, read the information on the package or prescription label or ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.
- If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking aspirin.
- If you drink three or more alcoholic drinks every day, ask your doctor if you should take aspirin or other medications for pain and fever.