

**PATIENT'S NAME:**

**MEDICATION:** acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin). (Brand names include Acuprin, Apo-ASA, Apo-ASEN, Arthrinol, Arthritis Foundation Pain Reliever, Artria S.R, ASA, Aspergum, Aspirin, Aspir-Low, Aspirtab, Astrin, Bayer, Coryphen, Easprin, Ecotrin, Empirin, Entrophen, Genprin, Halfprin, Headache tablet, Healthprin, Heartline, Norwich, Novasen, PMS-ASA, Sal-Adult, Sa-Infant, Sloprin, St. Joseph, Supasa, Sureprin, and Zorpin.)

**WHAT IT'S USED FOR:** Acetylsalicylic acid is used to reduce pain, inflammation, and fever.

**HOW TO TAKE IT**

- Take with food or large amounts of water or milk to reduce stomach irritation.
- Take drug exactly as prescribed. Don't exceed recommended dosage.
- Be aware that extended-release or enteric-coated forms are best for long-term use.
- Stop taking this drug at least 1 week before surgery, or as instructed.

**WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS!**

- Tell your prescriber if you are allergic to this drug before taking.
- Notify, or make sure a family member notifies, prescriber immediately of symptoms of bleeding tendency (easy bruising or unusual bleeding), hypersensitivity reaction, or acute toxicity reaction (double vision, seizures, hallucinations, fever, scant urine, incoherent speech, restlessness, irritability, tremor, vertigo, confusion, disorientation, mania, tiredness, or throat swelling).
- Tell prescriber if you develop hearing problems (hearing loss, ringing in ears, vertigo) or begin to stagger when you walk.
- Avoid activities that may cause injury. Use a soft toothbrush and electric razor to avoid gum and skin injury.
- Never give this drug to a child who has symptoms of chickenpox or a flu-like illness.
- Don't take within 6 weeks of administration of live varicella virus vaccine because of risk of a serious disorder called Reye's syndrome.
- Be aware that you should have regular blood tests if you take this drug long-term.
- Tell your prescriber if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

**SIDE EFFECTS**

This drug may cause hearing loss, ringing in ears, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, indigestion, epigastric distress, heartburn, poor appetite, bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract, blood disorders (including some serious ones), liver damage, electrolyte disorders, wheezing, rapid breathing, fluid in lungs, rash, hives, bruising, and hypersensitivity reactions (including anaphylaxis and coma). Notify your prescriber of all serious or bothersome symptoms.

**INTERACTIONS**

- Acetylsalicylic acid may cause serious interactions with many other drugs, including anticoagulants (heparin and warfarin), ammonium chloride, activated charcoal, antacids, some blood pressure drugs called ACE inhibitors, acetazolamide, corticosteroids (such as prednisone), some diuretics (such as furosemide and spironolactone), methotrexate, nizatidine, some antidiabetic drugs (such as chlorpropamide and tolbutamide), tetracycline, and live varicella virus vaccine. Tell all prescribers you are taking this drug.
- Avoid alcohol use while taking this drug.

**STORAGE**

- Store drug in tightly closed container at room temperature, and protect it from light.

**ADDITIONAL POINTS:**

Your initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_