

Protect Your Stent



A stent is a wire cage that holds the blood vessel open.

You have ____ stent(s) placed in the blood vessel(s) of your:

- Brain
- Heart
- Leg
- Kidney
- Other

Your stent type(s): ____ bare metal ____ drug releasing.

Medicines to prevent clotting of the stent

- Antiplatelet medicines prevent platelets in the blood from clumping or clotting to block the stent. These medicines include:
 - clopidogrel, brand name Plavix
 - prasugrel, brand name Effient
 - ticagrelor, brand name Brilinta
 - aspirin
- **It is important to take your antiplatelet medicines as directed by the doctor who placed your stent.** Based on your stent and your condition, your doctor may have you take 2 antiplatelet medicines for a period of time.
- **You should take at least 1 antiplatelet medicine for the rest of your life** to protect your stent from clotting.



Learn more about using antiplatelet medicines to treat heart disease at go.osu.edu/antiplatelet_hd

Risk of bleeding or clotting of stent

- **Not taking these medicines puts you at risk for your stent to clot** and block blood flow, which could cause serious injury or death.
- **Always check with the doctor who placed the stent before you stop taking your antiplatelet medicine, including aspirin.**
- Taking these medicines to protect your stent from clotting puts you at **risk for more bleeding if you have a cut or surgery.**

Protect yourself

- **If you have bleeding that you cannot control or is severe, call the doctor who started the antiplatelet medicine or go to the nearest emergency room.**
- Know where your stent or stents are in your body and what medicines you are taking.
- Carry a card in your wallet or purse that has the information written down about your care and treatment, so you have it with you.
- If you have a history of **heart failure, heart attack or stroke, or have a stent in your heart, you should avoid use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or naproxen sodium (Aleve).** These drugs may increase your risk of another heart attack or stroke. Use acetaminophen (Tylenol) for pain, fever, colds or headaches as needed.
- Be sure to tell all of your doctors, including your eye doctor and dentist, that you have a stent. Tell them you are taking antiplatelet medicine, including aspirin.

Talk to your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

For more health information, go to wexnermedical.osu.edu/patiented or contact the Library for Health Information at 614-293-3707 or health-info@osu.edu.