

ASPIRIN (ASA)

EMSAC FEBRUARY 2026

ACTION: Anti-thrombotic

- Irreversibly blocks formation of thromboxane A2 resulting in decreased platelet aggregation (antiplatelet effect).

INDICATIONS:

- Administered as soon as possible to all adults with ~~New~~ chest pain ~~concerning for suggesting an active~~ acute coronary syndrome. ~~myocardial infarction.~~

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- ~~Hypersensitivity~~ Known severe allergic reaction to ASA
- ~~Relative contraindication in patients with Active GI bleeding, ulcers or asthma~~

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS:

- Gastrointestinal discomfort ~~bleeding~~
- Tinnitus
- ~~Gastroesophageal reflux~~

ADULT DOSE/ROUTE:

- ⇒ 324mg (equivalent to four (4) 81mg tablets) PO chewed and ~~then~~ swallowed.
- ⇒ ~~Note: one 324 mg adult ASA tablet could also be chewed by patient.~~

PEDIATRIC DOSE/ROUTE:

- ⇒ Not applicable

NOTES:

- Administer regardless of whether the patient is already on daily aspirin therapy ~~or blood thinner~~ as a home medication.
- Chewing aspirin in acute coronary syndrome achieves more rapid absorption and faster platelet inhibition compared to swallowing tablets whole. Enteric-coated formulations also have a delayed absorption (30 minutes) compared to non-enteric coated formulations (~4hours)
- ~~Oral absorption occurs within 20 to 60 minutes and is dependent on dosage, gastric motility or pH, dissolution rate and whether the drug is taken with antacids or meals.~~
- ~~Should be given within minutes of arrival in patients with new onset chest pain suggesting of an acute myocardial infarction.~~