

Medication: ASA	PDN: 6903.02	Last Updated: May 22, 2013	PMD: Andrew Travers*	PDC: Steven Carrigan*	Page 1 of 2
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Acetylsalicylic Acid / ASA

1.0 Classification

- Analgesic
- Antipyretic
- Platelet inhibitor
- Anti-inflammatory

2.0 Mechanism of Action

- Inhibits platelet aggregation as well as the agents that produce inflammation, pain and fever

3.0 Indications

- Chest pain of a possible ischemic origin
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Unstable angina

4.0 Contraindications

- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Known hypersensitivity to ASA
- Asthmatics sensitive to ASA

5.0 Precautions

- Allergies to other NSAIDs
- Children or teenagers with varicella or influenza-like symptoms
- Patients with platelet disorders (e.g. blood dyscrasias)

6.0 Route

- May be given PO

7.0 Dosage

Adult

- 160 mg (two tablets) PO (chewed)

8.0 Supplied

- 80 mg chewable tablets

9.0 May Be Given By

- PCP/ICP/ACP/CCP

10.0 Adverse effects

- Epigastric pain
- Nausea/vomiting
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Urticaria

Medication: ASA	PDN: 6903.01	Last Updated: May 22, 2013	PMD:	PDC:	Page 2 of 2
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11.0 Special notes

- Giving ASA to children or teenagers with a viral illness can cause Reye's Syndrome
- Pregnancy category D [potential benefits may warrant use of the drug in pregnant women despite potential risks (e.g. if it is required in a life-threatening situation)]

12.0 References

- Chest Pain Clinical Practice Guideline
- Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties (CPS)

*Electronically Signed
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