

Aspirin

McHenry Western Lake County
EMS



Objectives

- During this session we will discuss:
- Class
- Actions
- Indications
- Contraindications
- Dosing/Routes
- How supplied
- Precautions
- Side effects



Class:

- Non-narcotic analgesic, non steroidal anti-inflammatory.



Actions:

- Blocks platelet aggregation (clumping) to keep clot from getting bigger in the Acute Coronary Syndrome.
- Blocks prostaglandin release (antipyretic, analgesic)
- Anti-inflammatory agent

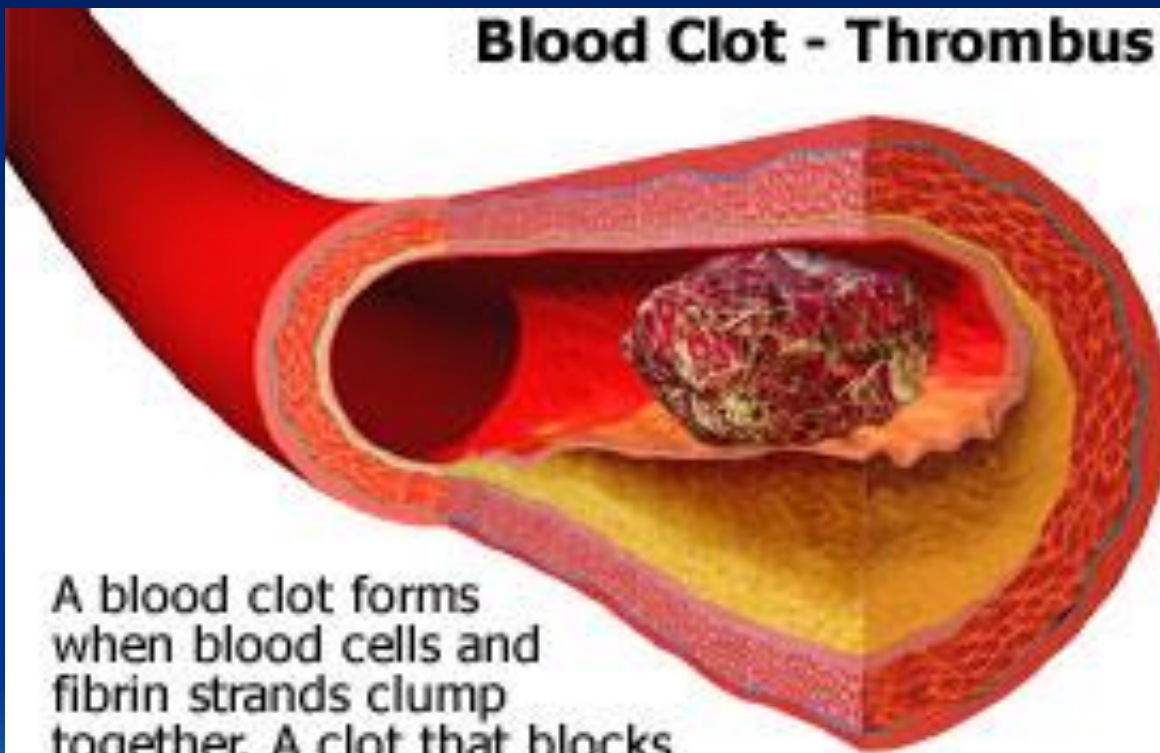


Prostaglandin

- A prostaglandin is any member of a group of lipid compounds that are derived enzymatically from fatty acids and have important functions in the body.



Blood Clot - Thrombus



A blood clot forms when blood cells and fibrin strands clump together. A clot that blocks blood flow is called a thrombus.

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Indications:

- Acute coronary syndromes, angina, unstable angina, Acute Myocardial Infarction.



Dosing/Routes:

- 324 mg chewable tabs (baby Aspirin) or 4 81mg tabs



How supplied:

- 81mg individually packaged tablets



Contraindications:

- Children < 18
- AMS
- Chest pain following recent trauma prior to CT
- Possible Stroke or ICH
- Currently vomiting; surgery within 2 wks
- Bleeding disorders
- > 6 mo pregnant
- Active peptic ulcer disease, severe liver disease.



Precautions:

- Anemia
- Hepatic disease
- Renal disease
- Pre/Postoperatively
- Gastritis



Side effects/adverse reactions:

- EENT: Ringing in the ears
- GI: Nausea/Vomiting
- GI: Irritation and Bleeding
- Hematology: Increases bleeding times (PT and PTT)
- Resp: Asthma patients may have ASA sensitivity; cause bronchospasm
- Ref: MWLCEMS Protocol and 2000 Mosby's Nursing Drug Reference Book



Case Study

- You are treating a 60 year old male who is complaining of substernal radiating chest pains.
- He has no past medical history and takes no medications and is allergic to no meds.
- You have decided to treat him under the ACS Protocol.
- What would the dose of Aspirin be for this patient?



Answer

- He would receive 324mg of ASA by PO route. (by mouth)
- Each tablet is supplied as an 81mg individual tablet, so he would receive 4.



Question?

- Are we giving the ASA to him to treat his chest pains?



Answer

- NO!!
- We are actually treating him for his suspected clot by blocking the platelet aggregation to keep the clot from getting bigger.

