



Patient & Family Guide
2024

Ticagrelor



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Ticagrelor

Why do I need this medication?

- Ticagrelor (Brilinta®) is used with low-dose Aspirin® to lower your risk of having a heart attack.
- If you had a stent put in, this medication also keeps blood clots from forming in the stent.

Who should not take this medication?

- **Do not** take this medication if:
 - › You have a bleeding problem (like bleeding from a stomach ulcer)
 - › You had a bleeding problem in the past
 - › You have severe (very bad) liver disease

How do I take this medication?

- Take ticagrelor 2 times a day, about 12 hours apart.
 - › For example: take it at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. every day.
- Take it at the same time each day.
- Take this medication as told by your cardiologist (heart doctor).

- People usually take ticagrelor for 12 months (1 year).
- **If you have a stent, stopping ticagrelor early may raise your risk of a heart attack. Do not stop taking ticagrelor before talking to your cardiologist.**

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Skip the missed dose.
- Take your next dose at the usual time.
- **Do not** take 2 doses at the same time.

Medications to avoid

- Talk with your primary health care provider (family doctor or nurse practitioner) or pharmacist before taking any other medications, including over-the-counter products.
- Talk with your primary health care provider before taking:
 - › ASA, like Aspirin®
 - › Anti-inflammatory medications, like ibuprofen (Advil®)

- If you have a stent, you will keep taking low-dose Aspirin® while you are taking ticagrelor.
 - › **Do not** take more than 100 mg of Aspirin® a day. This may change how well ticagrelor works.
- Ask your primary health care provider about any other medications or foods you should avoid.

Warnings

- If you are pregnant or breastfeeding/ chestfeeding, talk to your cardiologist before taking this medication.
- You may need to stop taking ticagrelor 5 to 7 days before any surgery or dental work. **Check with your cardiologist before you stop taking ticagrelor.**

Side effects

Call your primary health care provider right away if you have:

- › New or sudden trouble breathing
- › Blood in your urine (pee) or stool (poop)
- › Stool that looks black or like tar
- › Blood in your vomit (throw-up) or your vomit looks like coffee grounds

Talk to your primary health care provider or pharmacist if you have any of these less serious side effects:

- › Headache
- › Dizziness
- › Stomach pain
- › Diarrhea (loose, watery poop)
- › Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- › Vomiting (throwing up)
- › Itching or a tingling feeling
- › Tiredness
- › Muscle weakness

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medication, tell your primary health care provider.

How do I store this medication?

- Store your medication in a tightly closed container at room temperature (15 to 30 °C).
- **Do not** store it in the bathroom.
- Keep all medication out of the reach of children and pets.

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

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