

Ticagrelor

Medication Name	Brand Name
Ticagrelor	○ Brilinta

What is it used for

Ticagrelor is an antiplatelet medication. It stops platelets in your blood from sticking together, which reduces the chance of blood clot forming. Ticagrelor is used for people who have had a heart attack, chest pain or stroke, caused by blood clots. Your doctor may also prescribe ticagrelor after you have had a coronary stent.

How to take this drug

This medication should be taken twice a day. Take your doses of ticagrelor around the same time every day. If you forget to take your scheduled dose of ticagrelor, take your next dose at its scheduled time. Avoid using alcohol or cannabis as it can make you dizzier. Do NOT take two doses at the same time unless your doctor tells you to. Always inform your doctor or pharmacist you are taking Brilinta before starting other medications, including over-the-counter medications and supplements.

Before taking this medication it is important to tell your Doctor if you:

- Have had bleeding problems in the past
- Have had any recent serious injury or surgery
- Plan to have surgery or a dental procedure
- Have a history of stomach ulcers or colon polyps
- Have lung problems, such as COPD or asthma
- Have liver problems
- Have a history of stroke
- Drink large amounts of grapefruit juice
- Are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant
- Are breastfeeding or planning on breastfeeding
- Are taking more than 40mg of simvastatin daily

Side effects

Side effects occur in some people taking this medication. If they are troublesome to you, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

- **Shortness of breath (Dyspnoea).** The sensation of being short of breath can be most pronounced an hour after taking your dose and will usually subside in a few days. This is the most common side effect, however; please don't stop taking the medication and speak to your doctor).
- Increased chance of bleeding or bruising
- Headache
- Nausea
- Blood noses

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Other important facts

- It is very important to tell your doctor immediately if you have:
 - Bloody or black bowel motions
 - Abdominal or stomach pain
 - Vomit blood or your vomit looks like coffee grounds
 - Coughed blood
 - Blood in your urine
 - Numbness, problems with coordination/speech
 - Faintness or dizziness
 - Continuous headache
- Your doctor or dentists needs to know you are on this medication before any procedures or operations
- Do not leave ticagrelor in the car or in a hot area
- Never share your medications with others
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children

If you have any queries about your medications, talk to your Doctor or pharmacist.

This information is only designed for use as an educational aid and is general in nature.

This resource was produced using information from Hospital Pharmacy Services and assistance from Royal Darwin Hospital Pharmacy.