

# Anti-platelet Medicine

## ticagrelor (Brilinta<sup>®</sup>)

### Pharmacy Services

This is intended as a general reference.  
It does not replace the advice given to you by your healthcare provider.



## What is ticagrelor?

Ticagrelor (say 'tye-ka-grel-or') is given to people who have had a heart attack.

After a heart attack, some people have stents placed into arteries that supply blood to the heart (coronary arteries). A stent is a small tube of reinforced wire that helps keep the blocked artery open.

Ticagrelor helps:

- lower your chance of having another heart attack
- prevent blood clots inside stents

## How does this medicine work?

Ticagrelor stops platelets (a type of blood cell) from collecting and forming. Blood clots can be dangerous. They can block off the blood supply to the heart muscle, causing a heart attack.

While this medicine lowers your chances of having a heart attack, you won't know if the medicine is working or not. This means you need to keep taking ticagrelor even when you are feeling well.

## How do I take ticagrelor?

- Take this medicine:
  - 2 times each day  
(1 pill in the morning and 1 pill in the evening)
  - with a glass of water, with or without food
  - at the same times every day  
(Choose a time that is convenient and easy to remember.)
- **Do not** change how much you are taking without talking to your doctor.
- **Do not** suddenly stop taking this medicine without talking with your doctor. This can increase the chances of you getting a blood clot or having a stroke.

ASA (Aspirin®) is usually taken with ticagrelor.

- Take the ASA pill at the same time you take your ticagrelor.
- **Do not** take any more than 100mg of ASA in a day.  
If you take more than 100mg, it could lessen the effect of the ticagrelor.

## How long will I need to take ticagrelor?

People take ticagrelor for different lengths of time. Ask your heart doctor how long you might need to take this medicine.

Take the ASA for as long as your heart doctor instructs you to take it.

## What should I do if I miss a dose?

Do your best to **never miss a dose**, if possible.

If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember that same day. But, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular schedule.

**Do not** take 2 doses at the same time, unless your heart doctor has told you differently.

Let your heart doctor know of any missed doses at your next appointment.

Contact your pharmacist or heart doctor if you have any questions about how to take this medicine.

## What should I watch for?

Most people who take ticagrelor do not notice any side effects but they are possible.

**Tell your doctor** if you have any of the following:

- increased bleeding from cuts
- increased bruising from minor injuries
- feeling dizzy
- feeling sick to your stomach (nauseated)
- diarrhea
- painful, swollen joints, especially in the toes or feet

**Call 9-1-1** if you have any of the following:

- shortness of breath or gasping while resting or after a small amount of activity
- chest pain
- a really slow, fast, or irregular heart beat
- bloody or black, tarry stools (poop)
- blood red or brown urine (pee)
- coughing up or vomiting up blood or brown material that looks like coffee grounds
- a nose bleed that does not stop or slow down with pressure

**9-1-1**



## Can I take other medicines while taking ticagrelor?

Ticagrelor could change how other medicines work. Other medicines could change how ticagrelor works. This includes medicines prescribed for you, medicines you buy without a prescription, as well as herbal, alternative, and natural medicines.

### Tips to prevent reactions between medicines:

- Ask your pharmacist or healthcare professional about any medicines or supplements that you are currently taking.
- Always check with your healthcare professional before starting any new medicines or medicinal products, especially blood thinners.

## Will ticagrelor affect my lifestyle?

**Tell others:** Before you have any dental work, medical procedures, or surgery, tell the doctor or dentist you are taking ticagrelor.

**Alcohol:** Drinking alcohol can irritate your stomach, increasing your chances of getting ulcers or bleeding in the stomach.

**Pregnancy:** Usually, this medicine should not be taken when pregnant or breastfeeding. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.

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If you have any questions about this medicine:

- Ask your pharmacist.
- Ask your doctor.

- Call HealthLinkBC

**8-1-1** or TTY 7-1-1

Speak to a nurse any time,  
a pharmacist after hours, or  
a dietitian on weekdays.

HealthLinkBC is open 24 hours. Available in 130  
languages. For an interpreter, say your language in  
English. Wait until an interpreter comes on the phone.

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This information is intended only for the person to whom it was provided.

The information contained in this pamphlet is designed to be a general reference for your medication.

While we have taken care to make sure the information is accurate as of the date published:

- It is not intended to provide specific medical advice or replace the specific recommendations of a healthcare professional.
- It is not intended to act as a substitute for any prescribed treatment.

The Fraser Health Authority is not responsible for any problems that might arise from the use or misuse of the information provided in this pamphlet.

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