

ANGIOPLASTY: MEDICATIONS

TRANSCRIPT

After angioplasty, you will be prescribed certain medications to help you reach your recovery goals. These medications will be listed on your discharge plan.

This medication list may include new prescription and over-the-counter medications. It may also include changes to some of the medications you were taking before your angioplasty. If you were taking heart medications before your procedure, make sure you talk to your doctor about whether to continue to take them.

You have probably been prescribed some new medications to reduce the risk of blood clots forming. One of them is aspirin. Aspirin can reduce your risk of a heart attack, so you will be required to take aspirin daily for the rest of your life, unless you can't tolerate aspirin for some reason.

Another medication is an antiplatelet agent. If you have a stent, you will take an antiplatelet agent to reduce the small risk of a blood clot forming in the stent.

And you may be prescribed a statin. This medication helps to reduce the build-up of plaque throughout the heart arteries caused by coronary artery disease.

Some of these medications may make you bruise more easily or make a cut bleed longer than usual. If the bleeding does not stop, or if you see blood in your urine or have black tarry stool, let your doctor know.

Should you forget to take a dose of any of your medications take only the prescribed dose as soon as you can. Don't try to make up for the dose you missed by taking twice as much. Double dosing can be dangerous.

Certain medications should not be taken in combination, so be sure your doctor knows about all the medications you take – even vitamins, herbal supplements, and over-the-counter medications for allergies, a cold, or an upset stomach.

If you, a family member, or your pharmacist have any questions about the medications you are taking, talk to your doctor.