

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

Pr AGGRENOX[®]

Dipyridamole/Acetylsalicylic Acid Capsules

200 mg Extended Release Dipyridamole/25 mg Immediate Release Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA)

ANTIPLATELET AGENT

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Pr **AGGRENOX**[®]

Dipyridamole/Acetylsalicylic Acid Capsules

200 mg Extended Release Dipyridamole/25 mg Immediate Release Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA)

PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	Clinically Relevant Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Oral	Capsules, 200mg/25 mg	Non-medicinal ingredients (in alphabetical order): acacia, aluminium stearate, colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, dimethicone, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, lactose monohydrate, methacrylic acid copolymer, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, stearic acid, sucrose, talc, tartaric acid, titanium dioxide, and triacetin. The capsule shell contains: gelatine, red iron oxide and yellow iron oxide, titanium dioxide and water.

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

AGGRENOX is indicated for:

- the prevention of stroke in patients who have had a previous stroke or a transient ischemic attack (TIA).

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): Safety and effectiveness of AGGRENOX in pediatric patients has not been studied. Therefore, AGGRENOX should not be used in pediatric patients.

ASA should not be used in children or teenagers for viral infections, with or without fever, because of the risk of Reye's syndrome with concomitant use of ASA in certain viral illnesses.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container. For a complete listing, see the Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section of the product monograph.
- Due to the ASA component, AGGRENOX is contraindicated in patients with known allergy to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and in patients with the syndrome of asthma, rhinitis and nasal polyps.
- Patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance and/or galactose intolerance (e.g. galactosaemia) should not take this medicine. One capsule AGGRENOX contains 53 mg

lactose and 11.3 mg sucrose, resulting in 106 mg lactose and 22.6 mg sucrose per maximum recommended daily dose.

- Patients with active gastrointestinal ulcer or bleeding disorders.
- Patients in the last trimester of pregnancy.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

The concomitant use of AGGRENOX with some NSAIDs for analgesic and /or anti-inflammatory effects is NOT recommended because of the absence of any evidence demonstrating synergistic benefits and the potential for additive reactions. The use of some NSAIDs in patients who take AGGRENOX may increase the risk of serious cardiovascular adverse events as well as gastrointestinal side effects (see Drug-Drug Interactions, NSAIDs).

Ibuprofen can interfere with the anti-platelet effect of low dose acetylsalicylic acid. Long-term daily use of ibuprofen may render ASA less effective when used for stroke prevention and thus is not recommended while taking AGGRENOX (see Drug-Drug Interactions, Ibuprofen). Healthcare professionals should advise patients of the appropriate occasional use of ibuprofen and AGGRENOX.

General

ALCOHOL WARNING

Patients who consume three or more alcoholic drinks every day should be counselled about the bleeding risks involved with chronic, heavy alcohol use while taking AGGRENOX, due to the ASA component.

If a patient is to undergo elective surgery, consideration should be given to discontinue AGGRENOX 10 days prior to surgery to allow for the reversal of the effect.

Headache or migraine-like headache which may occur especially at the beginning of AGGRENOX[®] therapy should not be treated with analgesic doses of acetylsalicylic acid (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION; *Alternative regimen in case of intolerable headaches*).

MAJOR HEMORRHAGIC EVENTS

As any antiplatelet agents, which cause bleeding, the use of AGGRENOX may increase the risk of bleeding such as skin haemorrhage, gastrointestinal bleeding and intracerebral haemorrhage.

Caution should be advised in patients receiving concomitant medication which may increase the risk of bleeding, such as anticoagulants, antiplatelet agents, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or anagrelide (see DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Due to the risk of bleeding, as with other antiplatelet agents, AGGRENOX should be used with caution in patients at increased bleeding risk and patients should be followed carefully for any signs of bleeding, including occult bleeding. In patients with recent transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or strokes who are at high risk of recurrent ischemic events, AGGRENOX has been shown to increase major hemorrhagic events and hemorrhagic strokes (see ADVERSE REACTION).

Due to the ASA component, the concomitant use of AGGRENOX with corticosteroids can increase the gastrointestinal bleeding.

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

CARCINOGENESIS

In carcinogenicity studies in rats and mice with the combination of dipyridamole and ASA at the ratio of 1:6 over a period of 125 and 105 weeks respectively, no significant tumorigenic effect was observed at maximum doses of 450 mg/kg (corresponding to a share of 75 mg/kg of dipyridamole, 9 times the maximum recommended daily human dose for a 50 kg person on a mg/kg basis [or 1.5-2.1 times on a mg/m² basis]), and 375 mg/kg ASA, 375 times the maximum recommended daily human dose for a 50 kg person on a mg/kg basis (or 58-83 times on a mg/m² basis).

Cardiovascular

AGGRENOX should be used with caution in patients with severe coronary artery disease (e.g. including unstable angina or recently sustained myocardial infarction) due to the vasodilatory effect of the dipyridamole component. Chest pain may be aggravated in patients with underlying coronary artery disease who are receiving dipyridamole. Patients being treated with AGGRENOX should not receive additional intravenous dipyridamole. If pharmacological stress testing with intravenous dipyridamole for coronary artery disease is considered necessary, then AGGRENOX should be discontinued twenty-four (24) hours prior to testing, otherwise the sensitivity of the intravenous stress test could be limited.

For stroke or TIA patients for whom ASA is indicated to prevent recurrent myocardial infarction (MI) or angina pectoris, the dose of ASA in AGGRENOX has not been proven to provide adequate treatment for these cardiac indications.

Gastrointestinal

PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

Patients with a history of active peptic ulcer disease should avoid using AGGRENOX, which can cause gastric mucosal irritation, and bleeding, due to the ASA component.

GI side effects include stomach pain, heartburn, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, and gross GI bleeding. Although minor upper GI symptoms, such as dyspepsia, are common and can occur anytime during therapy, physicians should remain alert for signs of ulceration and bleeding, even in the absence of previous GI symptoms. Physicians should inform patients about the signs and symptoms of GI side effects and what steps to take if they occur.

Hematologic

AGGRENOX should be used with caution in patients with inherited (haemophilia) or acquired (liver disease or vitamin K deficiency) bleeding disorders, due to the fact that even low doses of ASA can inhibit platelet function leading to an increase in bleeding time.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Due to the ASA component, AGGRENOX should be avoided in patients with severe hepatic insufficiency.

A small number of cases have been reported in which unconjugated dipyridamole was shown to be incorporated into gallstones to a variable extent (up to 70% by dry weight of stone). These patients were all elderly, had evidence of ascending cholangitis, and had been treated with oral dipyridamole for a

number of years. There is no evidence that dipyridamole was the initiating factor in causing gallstones to form in these patients. It is possible that bacterial deglucuronidation of conjugated dipyridamole in bile may be the mechanism responsible for the presence of dipyridamole in gallstones.

MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

The dipyridamole component may counteract the anticholinesterase effect of cholinesterase inhibitors. In patients with myasthenia gravis, adjustment of cholinesterase inhibitors therapy may be necessary after dose administration regimen of AGGRENOX changes (see DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Renal

Due to the ASA component, AGGRENOX should be avoided in patients with severe renal failure (glomerular filtration rate less than 10 mL/min).

Sexual Function/Reproduction

No studies on the effects on human fertility have been conducted. In preclinical studies with dipyridamole no impairment of fertility was observed. ASA inhibits ovulation in rats (see TOXICOLOGY).

Special Populations

Pregnant Women: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of AGGRENOX in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, AGGRENOX should be given during the first two trimesters of pregnancy only if the potential benefit to the mother justifies the potential risk to the fetus. Due to the ASA component, AGGRENOX should not be prescribed during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Nursing Women: Dipyridamole and ASA are excreted in human breast milk. Therefore, caution should be exercised when AGGRENOX is administered to a nursing woman. AGGRENOX should only be administered in breast-feeding mothers when the potential benefits for the mother outweigh the possible risks for the newborn.

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age): Safety and effectiveness of AGGRENOX in pediatric patients has not been studied. Therefore, AGGRENOX should not be used in pediatric patients.

ASA should not be used in children or teenagers for viral infections, with or without fever, because of the risk of Reye's syndrome with concomitant use of ASA in certain viral illnesses.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

ASA has been associated with elevated hepatic enzymes, blood urea nitrogen and serum creatinine, hyperkalemia, proteinuria and prolonged bleeding time. Over the course of the 24-month study (ESPS2), patients treated with AGGRENOX showed a decline (mean change from baseline) in hemoglobin of 0.25 g/dl, hematocrit of 0.75%, and erythrocyte count of $0.13 \times 10^6/\text{mm}^3$.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

Two large scale trials (ESPS-2, PRoFESS) enrolling a total of 26,934 patients, thereof 11,831 patients treated with AGGRENOX (ESPS2: 1650, PRoFESS: 10, 055), were used to define the safety profile of

AGGRENOX. The duration of the trials were 24-months and 2.5 years for ESPS-2 and PRoFESS respectively. These data are supplemented with the AGGRENOX post-marketing experience.

Serious adverse events from controlled clinical trials were bleeding disorders, clotting disorders, gastrointestinal disorders, syncope, headache, and hypotension. Bleeding events (major bleeding, hemorrhage intracranial and gastrointestinal hemorrhage) were reported in patients treated with AGGRENOX in both of these trials. In the PRoFESS trial, major hemorrhagic events were reported in 4.1% and 3.6% of patients in the AGGRENOX treatment group and the clopidogrel treatment group respectively. Any intracranial hemorrhage was reported in 1.4% (AGGRENOX) and 1.0% (clopidogrel) of patients (See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

The most common adverse reactions were dizziness, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, anaemia, hypersensitivity, worsening of symptoms of CAD, epistaxis, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, headache, myalgia, vomiting, and nausea. Events that most commonly lead to discontinuation of AGGRENOX were headache, vomiting and nausea.

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.

ESPS2

A 24-month, multicenter, double-blind, randomized study (ESPS2) was conducted to compare the efficacy and safety of AGGRENOX with placebo, extended release dipyridamole alone and ASA alone. The study was conducted in a total of 6602 male and female patients who had experienced a previous ischemic stroke or transient ischemia of the brain within three months prior to randomization. Discontinuation due to adverse events in ESPS2 was 27.8% for AGGRENOX, 28.2% for extended release dipyridamole, 23.2% for ASA, and 23.7% for placebo.

Table 1 presents the incidence of adverse events that occurred in 1% or more of patients treated with AGGRENOX where the incidence was also greater than those patients treated with placebo.

Table 1: INCIDENCE OF ADVERSE EVENTS IN ESPS2 REPORTED BY > 1% OF PATIENTS DURING AGGRENOX TREATMENT WHERE THE INCIDENCE WAS GREATER THAN THOSE TREATED WITH PLACEBO

	Individual Treatment Group			
	AGGRENOX	ER-DP Alone	ASA Alone	placebo
Total Number of Patients	N= 1650	N= 1654	N = 1649	N = 1649
Total Number (%) of Patients With at Least One On-Treatment Adverse Event	1319 (79.9%)	1305 (78.9%)	1323 (80.2%)	1304 (79.1%)
Body System/Preferred Term				
Any Bleeding** Severity of bleeding:***				
Mild	84 (5.1%)	53 (3.2%)	82 (5.0%)	52 (3.2%)

	Individual Treatment Group			
	AGGRENOX	ER-DP Alone	ASA Alone	placebo
Total Number of Patients	N= 1650	N= 1654	N = 1649	N = 1649
Total Number (%) of Patients With at Least One On-Treatment Adverse Event	1319 (79.9%)	1305 (78.9%)	1323 (80.2%)	1304 (79.1%)
Moderate	33 (2.0%)	18 (1.1%)	33 (2.0%)	15 (0.9%)
Severe	23 (1.4%)	4 (0.2%)	19 (1.2%)	5 (0.3%)
Fatal	4 (0.2%)	2 (0.1%)	1 (0.1%)	2 (0.1%)
Body as a Whole – General Disorders				
Pain	105 (6.4%)	88 (5.3%)	103 (6.2%)	99 (6.0%)
Fatigue	95 (5.8%)	93 (5.6%)	97 (5.9%)	90 (5.5%)
Back Pain	76 (4.6%)	77 (4.7%)	74 (4.5%)	65 (3.9%)
Accidental Injury	42 (2.5%)	24 (1.5%)	51 (3.1%)	37 (2.2%)
Malaise	27 (1.6%)	23 (1.4%)	26 (1.6%)	22 (1.3%)
Asthenia	29 (1.8%)	19 (1.1%)	17 (1.0%)	18 (1.1%)
Syncope	17 (1.0%)	13 (0.8%)	16 (1.0%)	8 (0.5%)
Cardiovascular Disorders, General				
Cardiac Failure	26 (1.6%)	17 (1.0%)	30 (1.8%)	25 (1.5%)
Central & Peripheral Nervous System Disorders				
Headache	647 (39.2%)	634 (38.3%)	558 (33.8%)	543 (32.9%)
Convulsions	28 (1.7%)	15 (0.9%)	28 (1.7%)	26 (1.6%)
Gastro-Intestinal System Disorders				
Dyspepsia	303 (18.4%)	288 (17.4%)	299 (18.1%)	275 (16.7%)
Abdominal Pain	289 (17.5%)	255 (15.4%)	262 (15.9%)	239 (14.5%)
Nausea	264 (16.0%)	254 (15.4%)	210 (12.7%)	232 (14.1%)
Diarrhoea	210 (12.7%)	257 (15.5%)	112 (6.8%)	161 (9.8%)
Vomiting	138 (8.4%)	129 (7.8%)	101 (6.1)	118 (7.2%)
Hemorrhage Rectum	26 (1.6%)	22 (1.3%)	16 (1.0%)	13 (0.8%)

	Individual Treatment Group			
	AGGRENOX	ER-DP Alone	ASA Alone	placebo
Total Number of Patients	N= 1650	N= 1654	N = 1649	N = 1649
Total Number (%) of Patients With at Least One On-Treatment Adverse Event	1319 (79.9%)	1305 (78.9%)	1323 (80.2%)	1304 (79.1%)
Melena	31 (1.9%)	10 (0.6%)	20 (1.2%)	13 (0.8%)
Haemorrhoids	16 (1.0%)	13 (0.8%)	10 (0.6%)	10 (0.6%)
GI Hemorrhage	20 (1.2%)	5 (0.3%)	15 (0.9%)	7 (0.4%)
Musculo-Skeletal System Disorders				
Arthralgia	91 (5.5%)	75 (4.5%)	91 (5.5%)	76 (4.6%)
Arthritis	34 (2.1%)	25 (1.5%)	17 (1.0%)	19 (1.2%)
Arthrosis	18 (1.1%)	22 (1.3%)	13 (0.8%)	14 (0.8%)
Myalgia	20 (1.2%)	16 (1.0%)	11 (0.7%)	11 (0.7%)
Neoplasm				
Neoplasm NOS	28 (1.7%)	16 (1.0%)	23 (1.4%)	20 (1.2%)
Platelet, Bleeding & Clotting Disorders				
Hemorrhage NOS	52 (3.2%)	24 (1.5%)	46 (2.8%)	24 (1.5%)
Epistaxis	39 (2.4%)	16 (1.0%)	45 (2.7%)	25 (1.5%)
Purpura	23 (1.4%)	8 (0.5%)	9 (0.5%)	7 (0.4%)
Psychiatric Disorders				
Amnesia	39 (2.4%)	40 (2.4%)	57 (3.5%)	34 (2.1%)
Confusion	18 (1.1%)	9 (0.5%)	22 (1.3%)	15 (0.9%)
Anorexia	19 (1.2%)	17 (1.0%)	10 (0.6%)	15 (0.9%)
Somnolence	20 (1.2%)	13 (0.8%)	18 (1.1%)	9 (0.5%)
Red Blood Cell Disorders				
Anaemia	27 (1.6%)	16 (1.0%)	19 (1.2%)	9 (0.5%)
Respiratory System Disorders				

	Individual Treatment Group			
	AGGRENOX	ER-DP Alone	ASA Alone	placebo
Total Number of Patients	N= 1650	N= 1654	N = 1649	N = 1649
Total Number (%) of Patients With at Least One On-Treatment Adverse Event	1319 (79.9%)	1305 (78.9%)	1323 (80.2%)	1304 (79.1%)
Coughing	25 (1.5%)	18 (1.1%)	32 (1.9%)	21 (1.3%)
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	16 (1.0%)	9 (0.5%)	16 (1.0%)	14 (0.8%)

Note: ER-DP = Extended Release Dipyridamole 400 mg/day; ASA = Acetylsalicylic Acid 50 mg/day.

Note: The dosage regimen for all treatment groups is b.i.d.

** Bleeding at any site, reported during follow-up and within 15 days after eventual stroke or treatment cessation.

***Severity of bleeding: mild = requiring no special treatment; moderate = requiring specific treatment but no blood transfusion; severe = requiring blood transfusion.

Note: NOS = not otherwise specified

Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions (<1%)

Adverse reactions that occurred in less than 1% of patients treated with AGGRENOX in the ESPS2 study and that were medically judged to be possibly related to either dipyridamole or ASA are listed below.

Body as a Whole: allergic reaction, fever

Cardiovascular: hypotension, flushing

Central Nervous System: coma, paraesthesia

Gastrointestinal: gastritis, ulceration and perforation

Hearing & Vestibular Disorders: tinnitus, and deafness. Patients with high frequency hearing loss may have difficulty perceiving tinnitus. In these patients, tinnitus cannot be used as a clinical indicator of salicylism

Heart Rate and Rhythm Disorders: tachycardia, palpitation, arrhythmia, supraventricular tachycardia

Liver and Biliary System Disorders: cholelithiasis, jaundice, abnormal hepatic function

Metabolic & Nutritional Disorders: hyperglycemia, thirst

Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting Disorders: haematoma, gingival bleeding, cerebral hemorrhage, intracranial hemorrhage, subarachnoid hemorrhage

Note: There was one case of pancytopenia recorded in a patient within the AGGRENOX treatment group, from which the patient recovered without discontinuation of AGGRENOX. **Psychiatric**

Disorders: agitation

Reproductive: uterine hemorrhage

Respiratory: hypernea, asthma, bronchospasm, haemoptysis, pulmonary edema

Special Senses: taste loss

Skin and Appendages Disorders: pruritus, urticaria

Urogenital: renal insufficiency and failure, hematuria

Abnormal Hematologic and Clinical Chemistry Findings

Over the course of the 24-month study (ESPS2), patients treated with AGGRENOX showed a decline (mean change from baseline) in hemoglobin of 0.25 g/dl, hematocrit of 0.75%, and erythrocyte count of $0.13 \times 10^6/\text{mm}^3$.

Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

The following is a list of additional adverse reactions that have been reported either in the literature or are from post-marketing spontaneous reports for either dipyridamole or ASA.

Body as a Whole: hypothermia, migraine-like headache (especially at the beginning of treatment), pyrexia

Cardiovascular: angina pectoris, worsening of symptoms of coronary heart disease, tachycardia, syncope, hypotension, hot flush, arrhythmia

Central Nervous System: cerebral edema, dizziness, headache, also migraine-like headache (especially at the beginning of treatment), agitation, brain oedema, lethargy, convulsion

Eye disorders: eye haemorrhage

Fluid and Electrolyte: hyperkalemia, metabolic acidosis, respiratory alkalosis

Gastrointestinal: pancreatitis, vomiting, nausea, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, gastric ulcer, duodenal ulcer, gastritis erosive, gastrointestinal haemorrhage, abdominal pain, gastric ulcer perforation, duodenal ulcer perforation, melaena, haematemesis

Hearing and Vestibular Disorders: hearing loss, tinnitus, deafness

Hypersensitivity: acute anaphylaxis, laryngeal edema, hypersensitivity reactions including rash, urticaria, severe bronchospasm and angio-oedema, anaphylactic reactions (especially in patients with asthma)

Investigations: Liver function test abnormal, blood uric acid increased (may lead to gout attacks), prothrombin time prolonged

Liver and Biliary System Disorders: hepatitis, incorporated into gallstones, Reye's Syndrome

Musculoskeletal: rhabdomyolysis, myalgia

Metabolic & Nutritional Disorders: hypoglycaemia (children), dehydration, hyperglycaemia, thirst, hyperkalemia, metabolic acidosis, respiratory alkalosis

Psychiatric disorders: confusional state

Blood, Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting Disorders: prolongation of the prothrombin time, prolongation of bleeding time, procedural haemorrhage (increased bleeding during surgery), post-procedural haemorrhage (increased bleeding after surgery), disseminated intravascular coagulation, coagulopathy, thrombocytopenia (reduction of platelet count), anaemia, iron deficiency anaemia due to occult gastrointestinal bleeding

Reproductive: prolonged pregnancy and labour, stillbirths, lower birth weight infants, haemorrhage in pregnancy, postpartum bleeding, small for dates baby

Respiratory: tachypnea, epistaxis, dyspnoea, gingival bleeding, laryngeal oedema, hyperventilation, pulmonary oedema, tachypnoea

Skin and Appendages Disorders: rash, alopecia, angioedema, skin haemorrhages (such as contusion, ecchymosis and haematoma), erythema exsudativum multiforme

Urogenital: renal failure, renal papillary necrosis, nephritis interstitial, proteinuria

Listed adverse events of AGGRENOX® reported from clinical trials and from post-marketing reports, by frequencies:

Adverse events	Frequencies
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Adverse events	Frequencies
Headache Dizziness Dyspepsia Diarrhea Nausea Abdominal pain	Very Common ≥ 1/10
Hypersensitivity reactions: (rash, urticaria, severe bronchospasm, angioedema) Anaemia Haemorrhage intracranial Migraine like headache Worsening of symptoms of coronary heart disease (coronary artery disease) Syncope Epistaxis Vomiting (severe) Gastrointestinal Haemorrhage Myalgia	Common ≥1/100 < 1/10
Eye haemorrhage (intraocular haemorrhage) Tachycardia Hypotension Hot flush Gastric ulcer Duodenal ulcer	Uncommon ≥ 1/1000 < 1/100
Thrombocytopenia (reduction of platelet count) Iron deficiency anaemia due to occult gastrointestinal bleeding Gastritis erosive	Rare ≥ 1/10 000 < 1/1000
Skin haemorrhage (contusion, ecchymosis, hematoma) Bleeding time prolonged Post procedural haemorrhage Operative haemorrhage	Not known* These ADRs were not reported in clinical trials: therefore, a

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Drug-Drug Interactions

Overview

When AGGRENOX is used in combination with any substances impacting coagulation such as anticoagulants and antiplatelets, the safety profile for these medications must be observed.

Because of the increased risk of bleeding, the concomitant administration of heparin, or warfarin with AGGRENOX should be undertaken with caution.

The dipyridamole component of AGGRENOX may increase the hypotensive effect of drugs, which reduces blood pressure.

The drugs listed in this table are based on either drug interaction case reports or studies, or potential interactions due to the expected magnitude and seriousness of the interaction (i.e., those identified as contraindicated).

Table 2: ESTABLISHED OR POTENTIAL DRUG-DRUG INTERACTIONS

	Effect	Clinical comment
The following drug interactions are associated with the dipyridamole component of AGGRENOX:		
ADENOSINE	Dipyridamole has been reported to increase the plasma levels and cardiovascular effects of adenosine.	Adjustment of adenosine dosage may be necessary.
CHOLINESTERASE INHIBITORS	The dipyridamole component of AGGRENOX may counteract the anticholinesterase effect of cholinesterase inhibitors, thereby potentially aggravating myasthenia gravis.	Patients should be advised to consult a physician if any worsening of the disease occurs.
The following drug interactions are associated with the ASA component of AGGRENOX:		
ACETAZOLAMIDE	Due to the ASA component, concurrent use of AGGRENOX and acetazolamide can lead to high serum concentrations of acetazolamide (and toxicity) due to competition at the renal tubule for secretion.	Adjustment of acetazolamide dosage may be necessary.
ANAGRELIDE	Due to the ASA component, concurrent use of AGGRENOX with anagrelide may result in an increased risk of bleeding.	Patients should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.
ALCOHOL USE (CHRONIC)	Gastro-intestinal bleeding may increase when acetylsalicylic acid is administered concomitantly during chronic alcohol use.	Patients should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.
ANGIOTENSIN CONVERTING ENZYME (ACE) INHIBITORS	Due to the indirect effect of the ASA component on the renin-angiotensin conversion pathway, the hyponatremic and hypotensive effects of ACE inhibitors may be diminished by concomitant administration of AGGRENOX.	Patients should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of decreased renal function such as oedema, or increase in

ANTICOAGULANTS	<p>Patients on anticoagulation therapy are at increased risk for bleeding because of drug-drug interactions and effects on platelets. ASA can displace warfarin from protein binding sites, leading to prolongation of both the prothrombin time and the bleeding time. The ASA component of AGGRENOX can increase the anticoagulant activity of heparin, increasing bleeding risk.</p> <p>Acetylsalicylic acid has been shown to enhance the effect of anticoagulants which may result in an increased risk of bleeding.</p>	<p>Patients should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.</p>
ANTIPLATELET AGENTS	<p>Acetylsalicylic acid has been shown to enhance the effect of antiplatelet agents (e.g. clopidogrel, ticlopidine) which may result in an increased risk of bleeding.</p>	<p>Patients should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.</p>
ANTICONVULSANTS	<p>The ASA component of AGGRENOX can displace protein-bound phenytoin and valproic acid, leading to a decrease in the total concentration of phenytoin and an increase in serum valproic acid levels.</p> <p>Acetylsalicylic acid has been shown to enhance the effect of valproic acid which may result in an increased risk of rare, but often fatal hepatotoxicity.</p>	<p>Adjustment of phenytoin or valproic acid dosage may be necessary.</p>
BETA BLOCKERS	<p>The hypotensive effects of beta blockers may be diminished by the concomitant administration of AGGRENOX due to inhibition of renal prostaglandins by ASA, leading to decreased renal blood flow, and salt and fluid retention.</p>	<p>Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of decreased renal function such as oedema, or increase in blood pressure</p>
CORTICOSTEROIDS	<p>Gastro-intestinal bleeding increase when acetylsalicylic acid is administered concomitantly with corticosteroids.</p>	<p>Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.</p>
DIURETICS	<p>The effectiveness of diuretics in patients with underlying renal or cardiovascular disease may be diminished by the concomitant administration of AGGRENOX due to inhibition of renal prostaglandins by ASA, leading to decreased renal blood flow and salt and fluid retention.</p>	<p>Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of decreased renal function such as oedema occur.</p>

IBUPROFEN	Ibuprofen can interfere with the antiplatelet effect of low dose acetylsalicylic acid. Long-term daily use of ibuprofen may render ASA less effective when used for stroke prevention.	Long term daily use of ibuprofen is not recommended when taking AGGRENOX. Doctors should advise patients about the
METHOTREXATE	The ASA component of AGGRENOX can inhibit renal clearance of methotrexate, leading to bone marrow toxicity, especially in the elderly or renally impaired.	Adjustment of methotrexate dosage may be necessary.
NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAIDS)	Due to the ASA component, the concurrent use of AGGRENOX with other NSAIDs may increase the risk of cardiovascular adverse events or lead to decreased renal function. Gastro-intestinal bleeding increases when acetylsalicylic acid is administered concomitantly with NSAIDs.	Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.
ORAL HYPOGLYCAEMICS	AGGRENOX may increase the effectiveness of oral hypoglycemic drugs, leading to hypoglycaemia.	Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of hypoglycaemia occur.
SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SSRIs)	SSRIs may increase the risk of bleeding.	Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of bleeding occur.
URICOSURIC AGENTS (PROBENECID AND SULFINPYRAZONE) AND NATRIURETIC AGENTS	The ASA component of AGGRENOX antagonizes the uricosuric action of uricosuric agents. ASA decreased the natriuretic effect of spironolactone in healthy volunteers.	Patient should be advised to consult a physician if any signs or symptoms of decreased renal function such as oedema occur.

Drug-Herb interaction

Pharmacokinetic studies to determine the effect of herb or food have not been conducted with AGGRENOX.

Drug-laboratory interactions

Pharmacokinetic studies to determine the effect of laboratory interactions have not been conducted with AGGRENOX.

Drug-lifestyle interactions

Pharmacokinetic studies to determine the effect of lifestyle have not been conducted with AGGRENOX.

No studies on the effect of the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

Patients should be advised that symptoms such as dizziness and confusion have been reported in clinical trials. Therefore, caution should be recommended when driving a car or operating machinery. If patients experience such symptoms they should avoid potentially hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dosing Considerations

For oral administration.

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

The recommended dose of AGGRENOX is one capsule twice daily, one in the morning and one in the evening, with or without food.

Alternative regimen in case of intolerable headaches

In the event of intolerable headaches during treatment initiation, a regimen of one capsule of AGGRENOX at bedtime, along with low-dose (not 500 – 1,000 mg) acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) alone in the morning may be used.

Since it is expected that headaches related to the vasodilatory properties of dipyridamole will subside over time, the standard twice-daily regimen of AGGRENOX may generally be resumed within a week or so.

Administration

The capsules should be swallowed whole without chewing.

OVERDOSAGE

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

Because of the dose ratio of dipyridamole to ASA, overdose of AGGRENOX is likely to be dominated by signs and symptoms of dipyridamole overdose. For real or suspected overdose, a Poison Control Center should be contacted immediately. Careful medical management is essential.

DIPYRIDAMOLE

SYMPTOMS

Experience with dipyridamole overdose is limited. Based upon the known hemodynamic effects of dipyridamole, symptoms such as feeling warm, flushes, sweating, accelerated pulse, restlessness, feeling of weakness, dizziness, and anginal complaints can be expected. A drop in blood pressure and tachycardia might also be observed.

TREATMENT

Symptomatic treatment is recommended, possibly including a vasopressor drug. Gastric lavage should be considered. Since dipyridamole is highly protein bound, dialysis is not likely to be of benefit.

Administration of xanthine derivatives (e.g. aminophylline) may reverse the haemodynamic effects of dipyridamole overdose.

ASA

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of ASA overdosage may include hyperventilation (rapid and deep breathing), nausea, vomiting, vertigo, tinnitus, flushing, sweating, thirst, tachycardia, impairment of vision and hearing, dizziness and confusional states. Tinnitus can, particularly in elderly patients, be a symptom of overdose. In more severe cases acid base disturbances including respiratory alkalosis and metabolic acidosis can occur. Severe cases may show fever, hemorrhage, excitement, confusion, convulsion or coma, and respiratory failure.

TREATMENT

It consists of prevention and management of acid-base and fluid and electrolyte disturbances. Renal clearance is increased by increasing urine flow and by alkaline diuresis but care must be taken in this approach not to aggravate further the metabolic acidosis that develops and the hypokalemia. Acidemia should be prevented by administration of adequate sodium containing fluids and sodium bicarbonate. Hypoglycemia is an occasional accompaniment of salicylate overdosage and can be managed by administration of glucose solutions. If a hemorrhagic diathesis is evident, give vitamin K. Haemodialysis may be useful in complex acid base disturbances particularly in the presence of abnormal renal function.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Blood platelets participate actively in the pathogenesis of atherosclerotic lesions and thrombosis which is the principle cause of most strokes and transient ischemic attacks (TIAs). Platelets are believed to adhere to denuded, dysfunctional endothelium and to release mitogenic substances, such as platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), that foster the lesion's progression to rupture and thrombosis. The antithrombotic action of AGGRENOX is the result of the additive antiplatelet effects of dipyridamole and acetylsalicylic acid (ASA).

DIPYRIDAMOLE

Dipyridamole inhibits the uptake of adenosine into platelets, endothelial cells and erythrocytes in vitro and in vivo; the inhibition amounts to approximately 80% at C_{max} and occurs in a dose dependent manner at therapeutic plasma concentrations (0.5-1.9 µg/mL). This inhibition results in an increase in local concentrations of adenosine which acts on the platelet A₂-receptor thereby stimulating platelet adenylate cyclase and increasing platelet cyclic-3', 5'-adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) levels. Via this mechanism, platelet aggregation is inhibited in response to various stimuli such as platelet activating factor (PAF), collagen and adenosine diphosphate (ADP). Reduced platelet aggregation reduces platelet consumption towards normal levels.

Dipyridamole also inhibits phosphodiesterase (PDE) in various tissues. While the inhibition of cAMP-PDE is weak, therapeutic levels of dipyridamole inhibit cyclic-3', 5'-guanosine monophosphate-PDE (cGMP-PDE), thereby augmenting the increase in cGMP produced by EDRF (endothelium-derived relaxing factor, now identified as nitric oxide).

ASA

ASA inhibits platelet aggregation by irreversible inhibition of platelet cyclo-oxygenase and thus inhibits the generation of thromboxane A₂, a powerful inducer of platelet aggregation and vasoconstriction. In studies of platelet activity inhibition, 25 mg ASA was administered b.i.d. to 5

subjects for 2.5 days. Complete inhibition of collagen-induced aggregation was achieved by the 5th dose of ASA, and maximal effect persisted up to 2-3 days following stoppage of drug.

Pharmacodynamics

There are no significant interactions between ASA and dipyridamole. The kinetics of the components are unchanged by their co-administration as AGGRENOX. AGGRENOX is not interchangeable with the individual components of ASA and dipyridamole.

DIPYRIDAMOLE

Absorption: The dissolution and absorption of dipyridamole from AGGRENOX capsules is independent of the pH of the gastrointestinal tract. Peak plasma levels are achieved in 1.5 - 2 hours after administration. The absolute bioavailability of dipyridamole from AGGRENOX is about 70%. With a daily maintenance dose of 400 mg of the extended release formulation, peak plasma levels at steady state are between 1.5 - 3 µg/mL and trough levels are between 0.4 - 0.8 µg/mL.

Pharmacokinetic studies to determine the effect of food have not been conducted with AGGRENOX.

Distribution: Due to its high lipophilicity, dipyridamole distributes to many organs; however it has been shown that the drug does not cross the blood brain barrier to any significant extent.

Metabolism: Dipyridamole is metabolized in the liver. In plasma, about 80% of the total amount is present as parent compound and 20% as monoglucuronide.

Excretion: Most of the glucuronide metabolite (about 95%) is excreted via bile into the feces, with some evidence of enterohepatic circulation. Renal excretion of parent compound is negligible and urinary excretion of the glucuronide metabolite is low (about 5%). The dominant half-life for elimination after oral or intravenous administration is about 40 minutes.

Special Populations and Conditions

Geriatrics: Plasma concentrations (determined as area under the curve, AUC) of dipyridamole in healthy elderly subjects (> 65 years) are about 30-50% higher than in subjects younger than 55 years, on treatment with AGGRENOX. The difference is caused mainly by reduced clearance.

Hepatic Insufficiency: Patients with mild to severe hepatic insufficiency show no change in plasma concentrations of dipyridamole compared to healthy volunteers, but show an increase in the pharmacologically inactive monoglucuronide metabolite. Dipyridamole can be dosed without restriction as long as there is no evidence of liver failure.

Renal Insufficiency: Renal excretion of dipyridamole is very low (about 5%). In patients with creatinine clearances ranging from about 15 mL/min to > 100 mL/min, no changes were observed in the pharmacokinetics of dipyridamole or its glucuronide metabolite.

ASA

Absorption: The rate of absorption of ASA from the gastrointestinal tract is dependent on the dosage form, the presence or absence of food, gastric pH, and other physiologic factors. Since ASA produces its pharmacodynamic effect via the irreversible acetylating of platelets, the time course of its pharmacodynamic activity is not dependent on the pharmacokinetics of ASA but rather on the lifespan of the platelets (approximately 8-10 days). Therefore, small differences in the pharmacokinetics of

ASA, such as variations in its absorption rate or in elimination, are largely irrelevant to its pharmacologic activity with chronic administration. ASA undergoes moderate hydrolysis to salicylic acid in the liver and the gastrointestinal wall, with 50% - 75% of an administered dose reaching the systemic circulation as intact ASA. Peak plasma levels of ASA are achieved 0.5 - 1 hour after administration of a 50 mg ASA daily dose from AGGRENOX (given as 25 mg b.i.d.). Peak mean plasma concentration at steady state is 319 ng/mL (175-463 ng/mL).

Distribution: ASA is poorly bound to plasma proteins and its apparent volume of distribution is low (10 L). At low plasma concentrations (< 100 µg/mL), approximately 90% of salicylic acid is bound to albumin. Salicylic acid is widely distributed to all tissues and fluids in the body including the central nervous system, breast milk, and fetal tissues. Early signs of salicylate overdose (salicylism), including tinnitus (ringing in the ears), occur at plasma concentrations approximating 200 µg/mL. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS; OVERDOSAGE)

Metabolism: ASA is rapidly hydrolyzed in plasma to salicylic acid, with a half-life of 15-30 minutes. Plasma levels of ASA are essentially undetectable 1-2 hours after dosing and peak salicylic acid concentrations occur within 1-2 hours of administration of ASA. Salicylate metabolism is saturable and total body clearance decreases at higher serum concentrations due to the limited ability of the liver to form both salicyluric acid and phenolic glucuronide. Following toxic doses (10-20 g), the plasma half-life may be increased to over 20 hours.

Excretion: The elimination of salicylic acid follows first order kinetics at lower doses, with a resultant half-life of approximately 2-3 hours, which may rise to 30 hours at higher doses because of nonlinearity in metabolism and plasma protein binding. Renal excretion of unchanged drug depends upon urinary pH. As urinary pH rises above 6.5, the renal clearance of free salicylate increases from < 5% to > 80%. Alkalinization of the urine is a key concept in the management of salicylate overdose. (See OVERDOSAGE) Following therapeutic doses, about 10% is excreted as salicylic acid and 75% as salicyluric acid, in urine.

Special Populations and Conditions

Hepatic Insufficiency: Due to the ASA component, AGGRENOX is to be avoided in patients with severe hepatic insufficiency.

Renal Insufficiency: Due to the ASA component, AGGRENOX is to be avoided in patients with severe renal failure (glomerular filtration rate less than 10 mL/min).

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at 15 to 30°C.

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

Protect from excessive moisture.

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Each hard gelatine capsule contains 200 mg dipyridamole as extended release pellets (a mixture of two release rate pellets), and 25 mg ASA as an immediate release sugar coated tablet.

AGGRENOX is available as a hard gelatine capsule, with a red cap and an ivory-coloured body, containing yellow extended release pellets incorporating dipyridamole and a round white tablet incorporating immediate-release ASA. The capsule body is imprinted in red with the Boehringer Ingelheim logo and with “01A”.

Non-medicinal ingredients (in alphabetical order): acacia, aluminium stearate, colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, dimethicone, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, lactose monohydrate, methacrylic acid copolymer, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, stearic acid, sucrose, talc, tartaric acid, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

The capsule shell contains gelatine, red iron oxide and yellow iron oxide, titanium dioxide and water.

AGGRENOX is supplied in polypropylene bottles containing 60 capsules.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

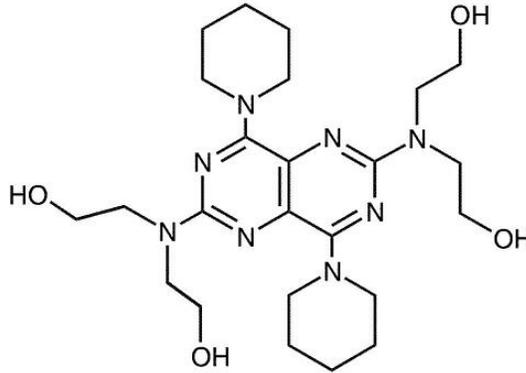
Drug Substance

Proper name: Dipyridamole

Chemical name: 2,6-bis(diethanolamino)-4,8-dipiperidino-pyrimido
(5,4-d) pyrimidine (= dipyridamole)

Molecular formula and molecular mass: $C_{24}H_{40}N_8O_4$, (504.63)

Structural formula:



$C_{24}H_{40}N_8O_4$

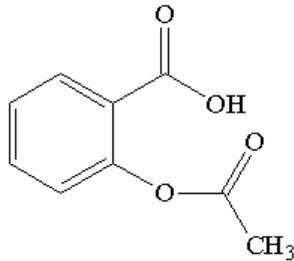
Mol. Wt. 504.63

Physicochemical properties: Dipyridamole is an odourless yellow crystalline substance, having a bitter taste. It is soluble in dilute acids, methanol and chloroform, and is practically insoluble in water.

Melting point: 162-168°C

Drug Substance

Proper name: Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA)
Chemical name: benzoic acid, 2-(acetyloxy)-
Molecular formula and molecular mass: $C_9H_8O_4$, (180.16)
Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: ASA is an odourless white, needle-like crystalline or powdery substance. When exposed to moisture, ASA hydrolyzes into salicylic and acetic acids, and gives off a vinegary-odour. It is highly lipid soluble and slightly soluble in water.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Study demographics and trial design

Table 3: SUMMARY OF PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS FOR CLINICAL TRIALS IN SPECIFIC INDICATION

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects	Mean age	Gender
ESPS2	double-blind, placebo-controlled	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AGGRENOX (extended release dipyridamole 200 mg/ASA 25 mg);- extended release dipyridamole (ER-DP) 200 mg alone;- ASA 25 mg alone;- or placebo. Oral, 24-month study, patients received one capsule twice daily (morning and evening).	6602 patients participated 76% had an ischemic stroke and 24% had a transient ischemic attack within three months prior to entry.	66.7 years	58.0% male and 42.0% female

AGGRENOX was studied in a double-blind, placebo-controlled, 24-month study (European Stroke Prevention Study 2 - ESPS2)* in which 6602 patients participated. Seventy six percent (76%) had an ischemic stroke and 24% had a transient ischemic attack within three months prior to entry. Mean age of the patients was 66.7 years. The gender disposition was 58.0% male and 42.0% female. Patients were randomized to one of four treatment groups using a 2-by-2 factorial design: AGGRENOX (extended release dipyridamole 200 mg/ASA 25 mg); extended release dipyridamole (ER-DP) 200 mg alone; ASA 25 mg alone; or placebo. Patients received one capsule twice daily (morning and evening). Efficacy assessments included analyses of stroke (fatal or non-fatal) as confirmed by a blinded assessment group, as well as analyses of the combined endpoint of stroke or death. Secondary endpoints were transient ischemic attack (TIA), other vascular events (OVE), myocardial infarction (MI) and ischemic events. OVE was defined as a composite of deep venous thrombosis, peripheral arterial occlusion, pulmonary embolism, and retinal vascular occlusion. Ischemic events comprised stroke, MI, and sudden death.

Study results

Table 4: RESULTS OF STUDY ESPS2 IN SPECIFIC INDICATION

Primary Endpoints	Associated value and statistical significance for Drug at specific dosages	Associated value and statistical significance for Placebo or active control
analyses of stroke (fatal or non-fatal)	AGGRENOX significantly reduces the risk of stroke by 36.8% compared with placebo ($p < .001$). AGGRENOX reduces the risk of stroke by a further 22.1% when compared with ASA ($p = .008$).	ER-DP reduces the risk of stroke by 18.9% ($p = .001$) ASA reduces the risk of stroke by 21.2% ($p < .001$)

Stroke Endpoint

AGGRENOX significantly reduces the risk of stroke by 36.8% compared with placebo ($p < .001$). Factorial analysis demonstrates that ER-DP reduces the risk of stroke by 18.9% ($p = .001$) and ASA reduces the risk of stroke by 21.2% ($p < .001$) when compared to placebo. Therefore, AGGRENOX reduces the risk of stroke by a further 22.1% when compared with ASA ($p = .008$). The factorial analysis shows that the effect of DP and ASA in AGGRENOX are additive. Nearly twice as many events are avoided with AGGRENOX therapy than with ASA or ER-DP given alone, as compared with placebo. Primary survival analysis found no significant reduction in death either by ASA, DP, or AGGRENOX in patients with a recent ischemic stroke or TIA.

*After publication of ESPS2, the data was re-analyzed for use with regulatory authorities in North America. The results presented here reflect the results of this re-analysis, which will explain some minor discrepancies between the numerical values reported here and those reported in the publications of this study. The re-analysis did not affect the significance of any of the results.

Table 5: SUMMARY OF FIRST STROKE (FATAL OR NON-FATAL): STUDY ESPS2

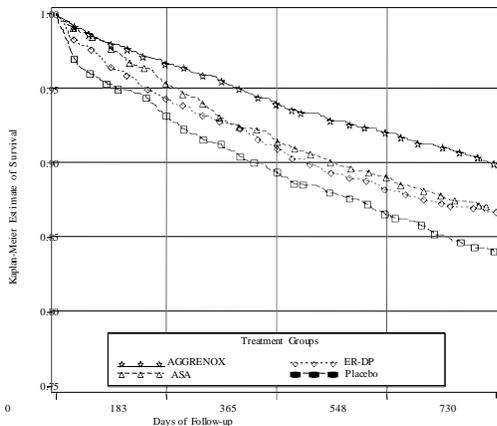
	Total Number of Patients (N)	Number of Patients with Stroke within 2 Years n (%)	Kaplan-Meier Stroke-Free Survival at 2 Years % (95% C.I.)
Factorial Analysis Groups			
ER-DP (AGGRENOX, ER-DP alone)	3304	368 (11.1)	88.3 (87.2, 89.4)
No ER-DP (ASA alone, placebo)	3298	456 (13.8)	85.6 (84.3, 86.8)
ASA (AGGRENOX, ASA alone)	3299	363 (11.0)	88.5 (87.4, 89.6)
No ASA (ER-DP alone, placebo)	3303	461 (14.0)	85.4 (84.1, 86.6)
Individual Treatment Groups (b.i.d.)			
AGGRENOX	1650	157 (9.5)	89.9 (88.4, 91.4)
ER-DP	1654	211 (12.8)	86.7 (85.0, 88.4)
ASA	1649	206 (12.5)	87.1 (85.4, 88.7)
Placebo	1649	250 (15.2)	84.1 (82.2, 85.9)
	P-Value*	Risk Reduction (%) at 2 Years	Odds Reduction (%) (95% C.I.)
Factorial Analysis Groups			
ER-DP vs. No ER-DP	.001	18.9	22 (9, 32)
ASA vs. No ASA	<.001	21.2	24 (12, 34)
ER-DP x ASA Interaction	.850	-	-
Pairwise Treatment Groups			
AGGRENOX vs. placebo	<.001	36.8	41 (27, 52)
ER-DP vs. placebo	.036	16.5	18 (0, 33)
ASA vs. placebo	.009	18.9	20 (3, 34)

* P-values from planned Gehan-Wilcoxon survival analysis.

Note: ER-DP = Extended Release Dipyridamole 400 mg/day; ASA = Acetylsalicylic Acid 50 mg/day

The stroke-free survivor outcome for AGGRENOX was superior to those for placebo, ER-DP alone, and ASA alone throughout the follow-up period (Figure 1).

Figure 1: FIRST STROKE (FATAL OR NON-FATAL): STUDY ESPS2 KAPLAN-MEIER SURVIVOR FUNCTION FOR EACH TREATMENT GROUP



Note: ER-DP = Extended Release Dipyridamole 200 mg b.i.d.; ASA = Acetylsalicylic Acid 25 mg b.i.d.

Note: The dosage regimen for all treatment groups is b.i.d.

Secondary Endpoints

Two separate secondary endpoints -- TIA and OVE -- strongly substantiated the individual and additive effectiveness of DP and ASA, as previously demonstrated by the primary analyses of stroke. Although the patient number with OVE was very small in all treatment groups, it was demonstrated that both DP and ASA produced significant reductions in TIA and OVE, and had additive effects in combination. Compared with placebo, AGGRENOX capsules reduced the (adjusted) odds of 1 TIA by 40% and reduced the odds of OVE by 62%.

DP and ASA also produced significant reductions in the protocol-specified secondary ischemic events endpoint, and these effects were additive in AGGRENOX. The results were primarily driven by the dominant stroke component. For acute MI, the only suggested effect was a 21% (95% C.I. -8% to 42%) odds reduction on ASA vs. No ASA.

Safety

The overall incidence of on-treatment adverse events in the safety population are summarized under ADVERSE REACTIONS. The adverse event profile for the DP+ASA group was consistent with the known adverse events of dipyridamole and ASA alone. Overall incidence and severity of side effects were not increased in the AGGRENOX group.

Headache

Headache was particularly evident in the DP and ASA-DP group during the very first month of treatment. Treatment cessation because of headache accounted for 8.9% of patients in the DP and DP-ASA group and only 2.8% and 2.1% in the placebo and ASA group respectively. Sixty-five percent (65%) and 66% of patients that discontinued treatment due to headache in the DP and DP-ASA group respectively terminated the treatment within the first month.

GI Adverse Events

None of the GI adverse events seemed to be related to study drugs except diarrhoea which was significantly more common in patients treated with DP alone or DP-ASA. In the DP and DP-ASA groups' treatment cessation was 7.2% and 8.1% respectively, compared to 4.35% in the placebo and ASA group. Fifty percent (50%) of treatment cessation due to diarrhoea occurred before the first month follow-up in the DP and DP-ASA group, while in the placebo and ASA groups it was 35% and 32%, respectively.

Bleeding

Bleeding from any site was a less common but a more serious adverse event than headache or GI complaints, causing death in 9 patients (4 on DP-ASA, 2 on DP, 1 on ASA, and 2 on placebo).

DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

PHARMACODYNAMICS

PRIMARY PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITY IN VITRO

ASA can inhibit platelet aggregation induced by the collagen induced generation of thromboxane A₂. However, this blockade can be overcome by increasing the prothrombotic stimulus, e.g. by increasing the concentration of collagen or by applying a mixture of stimuli. Violo et al demonstrated that ASA 100 µM was capable of inhibiting the effect of a threshold concentration of collagen but not when this was increased to the fourfold concentration. Moreover, ASA could not blunt the response to a mixture

of PAF and noradrenaline. Adding dipyridamole at concentrations of 10 and 30 μM , which by themselves were not active, restored the effect of ASA both in PRP as well as in full blood.

No such clear additive effect of ASA and dipyridamole was found in collagen stimulated whole blood aggregation from human volunteers *ex vivo*. Whereas oral ASA (25 mg b.i.d. for 8 days) totally inhibited cyclo-oxygenase activity and prostacyclin production and decreased platelet aggregation by 95.5%, additional treatment with dipyridamole (200 mg b.i.d.) did not add to this antiplatelet activity which was close to its maximum already.

Employing a more complex *ex vivo* model encompassing human subendothelial matrix, mimicking arterial wall damage, continuous shaking, mimicking blood flow and full blood observed a 19.8% inhibition of formation of platelet aggregates by pretreatment with dipyridamole (2 x 200 mg/d for 3.5 days), a 53.7 % inhibition by ASA (2 x 25 mg/d) and a 71.4 % reduction by the combination of both. Interestingly, in this study the combination of both drugs predominantly reduced the formation of large aggregates. A somewhat related study was performed by Lauri et al, who superfused blood of volunteers, pretreated with 150 mg dipyridamole or 25 mg of ASA or the combination of both b.i.d. for 3 days, over rat aortic subendothelium. In those experiments ASA slightly inhibited platelet adherence to the thrombogenic surface and only marginally added to the strong effect of dipyridamole.

PRIMARY PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITY IN VIVO

Tendon collagen resembles the thrombogenic subendothelial matrix. Superfusion of rabbit tendon directly from the circulatory system results in the accretion of thrombotic material. Adding prostacyclin (0.05 to 0.5 ng/ml) caused disaggregation of this material. This effect is potentiated by coadministration of dipyridamole (0.1 $\mu\text{g/ml}$). Dipyridamole without PGI₂ (1 to 50 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) also disaggregated these thrombi.

Interestingly, this disaggregatory effect of dipyridamole could almost be abolished by antibodies directed against prostacyclin. Also i.v. dipyridamole (3 and 10 mg/kg) decreased thrombus weight.

Whereas i.v. ASA at 5 and 150 mg/kg had no effect on thrombus size, 10 mg/kg caused a slight disaggregation of the thrombus.

A combination of dipyridamole (3 mg/kg i.v.) with 5 and 10 mg ASA resulted in a marked enhancement of the 'antithrombotic' effect while a high dose of ASA (150 mg/kg) totally abolished it.

Laser induced endothelial damage in venules of small rodents (hamsters and rats) causes the formation of small thrombi, the growth and size of which can be traced by intravital microscopy.

In a study in rats, different oral doses of ASA were combined with 2 to 5 mg of dipyridamole, orally. In this study dose ratios of 100:1 (5 mg/kg dipyridamole + 0.05 mg/kg ASA) and 40:1 (2 mg/kg dipyridamole + 0.05 mg/kg ASA) caused the strongest antithrombotic effect. Smaller dose ratios up to 1:1 were less effective. Similar observations were made in a comparable study in hamsters. In this model dose ratios of 40:1 and 8:1 were clearly superior to 4:1 and 1:1.

In a third model the effects of various combinations of dipyridamole and ASA following injection into the mesenteric vein were studied in rabbits. Thrombus formation was induced by stenosing the abdominal aorta and damaging the endothelium. Whereas in this model both pure ASA and pure dipyridamole were unable to inhibit thrombus formation and a combination of e.g. 5 mg/kg ASA and 1 mg/kg dipyridamole was minimally effective, dipyridamole 5 mg/kg plus ASA 0.1 mg/kg (50:1) reduced thrombus formation by 80%.

The group of L.A. Harker employs a totally different model for the detection of antithrombotic effects. In conscious baboons carrying femoral A V-shunts the consumption of ^{51}Cr labeled platelets that were irreversibly damaged by the foreign surface was measured. Whereas such a shunt reduced mean platelet survival time from 5.5 to 2.1 days, dipyridamole, (5 and 10 mg/kg/day dose), dependently increased platelet survival time at 10 mg/kg. This parameter is almost normal, i.e. 5.41 days. In contrast no effect of ASA was observed.

In a second study performed by this group dipyridamole 2.5 and 5.0 mg/kg/day reduced graft platelet consumption by 28 and 87 %, respectively, whereas ASA (10 to 20 mg/kg/day) was devoid of such an action. However, the combination of the lower dose of dipyridamole with 10, 15 and 20 mg/kg ASA reduced platelet consumption by 41 to 86% indicating a positive interaction between both compounds in this model.

Hansen et al determined the patency of an arterial graft in dogs. Treatment with a combination of dipyridamole (5 mg/kg/d) with ASA (2 mg/kg/d) reduced platelet accumulation within the graft by 75 % and improved the patency of grafts from 20 % to 70 %, as compared to placebo treatment.

Silver et al studied the effect of dipyridamole, ASA and the combination of both on platelet accumulation in a damaged artery in rabbits. While single dose administration of dipyridamole (1.5 mg/kg i.p.) had no significant effect on platelet deposition in the ear artery, pretreatment with dipyridamole for 5 days resulted in a 61 % reduction of platelet deposition. Single dose ASA (8 mg/kg i.p.) reduced thrombus size by 48 %. Combined single doses of dipyridamole (0.7 mg/kg i.p.) plus ASA (8 mg/kg i.p.) reduced platelet deposition more effectively, i.e. by 67 %.

PHARMACOKINETICS

DIPYRIDAMOLE

Absorption: The dissolution and absorption of dipyridamole from AGGRENOX Capsules is independent of the pH of the gastrointestinal tract. Peak plasma levels are achieved in 1.5 - 2 hours after administration. With a daily maintenance dose of 400 mg, peak concentrations at steady-state conditions of the extended release formulation given as geometric mean (10 – 90% quantiles) are 1.9 µg/mL (1.2 – 3.2 µg/mL) and trough concentrations are 0.5 µg/mL (0.3 – 0.8 µg/mL). The absolute bioavailability of dipyridamole from AGGRENOX is about 70%.

No studies to evaluate bioavailability of the components of AGGRENOX when administered with or without food were conducted. However, in studies with immediate and extended release formulations of dipyridamole by itself, a modest increase in bioavailability is observed with single as well as multiple-dose administration. The modest changes seen are similar regardless of formulation, and are therefore not likely to be formulation related. In the European Stroke Prevention Study 2 (ESPS2), patients were dosed without regard to the timing or content of meals and AGGRENOX was shown to be efficacious under these conditions.

Distribution: Due to its high lipophilicity, dipyridamole distributes to many organs; however it has been shown that the drug does not cross the blood brain barrier to any significant extent. The volume of distribution of dipyridamole is about 100 L. Approximately 99% of dipyridamole is bound to plasma proteins, predominantly to alpha 1-acid glycoprotein and albumin.

Metabolism and Elimination: Dipyridamole is metabolized in the liver, primarily by conjugation with glucuronic acid, of which monoglucuronide which has low pharmacodynamic activity is the primary metabolite. In plasma, about 80% of the total amount is present as parent compound and 20% as monoglucuronide. Most of the glucuronide metabolite (about 95%) is excreted via bile into the feces, with some evidence of enterohepatic circulation. Renal excretion of parent compound is negligible and urinary excretion of the glucuronide metabolite is low (about 5%). The dominant half-life for elimination after oral or intravenous administration is about 40 minutes.

ASA

Absorption: ASA is rapidly absorbed and achieves peak concentrations within approximately 30 minutes. The rate of absorption of ASA from the gastrointestinal tract is dependent on the dosage form, the presence or absence of food, gastric pH, and other physiologic factors. ASA undergoes moderate hydrolysis to salicylic acid in the liver and the gastrointestinal wall, with 50 - 75% of an administered dose reaching the systemic circulation as intact ASA.

Distribution: ASA is poorly bound to plasma proteins and its apparent volume of distribution is low (10 L). Its metabolite, salicylic acid, is highly bound to plasma proteins, but its binding is concentration-dependent (non-linear). At low concentrations (< 100 µg/mL), approximately 90% of salicylic acid is bound to albumin. Salicylic acid is widely distributed to all tissues and fluids in the body including the central nervous system, breast milk, and fetal tissues. Early signs of salicylate overdose (salicylism), including tinnitus (ringing in the ears), occur at plasma concentrations approximating 200 µg/mL. (See ADVERSE REACTIONS; OVERDOSAGE)

Metabolism: ASA is rapidly hydrolyzed in plasma to salicylic acid, with a half-life of 15-30 minutes. Plasma levels of ASA are essentially undetectable 1-2 hours after dosing and peak salicylic acid concentrations occur within 1-2 hours of administration of ASA. Salicylic acid is primarily conjugated in the liver to form salicyluric acid, a phenolic glucuronide, an acyl glucuronide, and a number of minor metabolites. Salicylate metabolism is saturable and total body clearance decreases at higher serum concentrations due to the limited ability of the liver to form both salicyluric acid and phenolic glucuronide. Following toxic doses (10-20 g), the plasma half-life may be increased to over 20 hours.

Elimination: The elimination of salicylic acid follows first order kinetics at lower doses, with a resultant half-life of approximately 2-3 hours. At higher doses, the elimination of salicylic acid follows zero order kinetics (i.e. the rate of elimination is constant in relation to plasma concentration), with an apparent half-life of 6 hours or higher (may rise to 30 hours). Renal excretion of unchanged drug depends upon urinary pH. As urinary pH rises above 6.5, the renal clearance of free salicylate increases from < 5% to > 80%. Alkalinization of the urine is a key concept in the management of salicylate overdose. (See OVERDOSAGE) Following therapeutic doses, about 10% is excreted as salicylic acid and 75% as salicyluric acid, as the phenolic and acyl glucuronides, in urine.

PHARMACOKINETICS IN SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Since pharmacokinetic studies demonstrate the lack of significant interaction between dipyridamole and ASA, potential interactions of AGGRENOX components would be limited to those of the individual component drugs (dipyridamole and ASA).

Geriatric Patients

Plasma concentrations (determined as area under the curve, AUC) of dipyridamole in healthy elderly subjects (> 65 years) are about 30-50% higher than in subjects younger than 55 years, on treatment

with AGGRENOX. A similar increase in plasma concentrations in elderly patients was observed in the ESPS2 study. The difference is caused mainly by reduced clearance.

Hepatic Dysfunction

Patients with mild to severe hepatic insufficiency show no change in plasma concentrations of dipyridamole, but show an increase in the pharmacologically inactive monoglucuronide metabolite. In patients with alcoholic liver disease, no notable differences were observed in ASA or SA (salicylic acid) pharmacokinetic parameters after administration of a high dose of ASA (1.2 g), though unbound SA concentrations were increased as a result of a decrease in plasma protein binding and unbound clearance of SA.

Renal Dysfunction

Renal excretion of dipyridamole is very low (about 5%). In patients with creatinine clearances ranging from about 15 mL/min to > 100 mL/min, no changes were observed in the pharmacokinetics of dipyridamole or its glucuronide metabolite. At high doses of SA, the free fraction of SA has been shown to be increased in patients with renal failure, but other SA pharmacokinetic parameters are not significantly affected. While SA accumulation and toxicity might be expected at high doses of ASA or SA, this would unlikely occur at low doses.

TOXICOLOGY

ACUTE TOXICITY

The single dose toxicity of the combination DPD/ASA was assessed after either oral or parenteral administration to mice, rats and dogs. Calculated LD50 values in mice and rats were comparable, while the dog proved to be more sensitive. Approximate values for LD50, maximum non-lethal and minimum lethal doses of DPD/ASA were as follows:

Table 6: SINGLE DOSE TOXICITY STUDY RESULTS

Route	Species	Ratio DPD: ASA	ALD50 (mg/kg)	Maximum non- lethal (mg/kg)	Minimum lethal dose (mg/kg)
P.O.	Mouse	1 : 5	3000 - 5000 2148	750 -	1000 1500
		1 : 5 1 : 5 8 + 1	2410 4000 - 5000 >6750	1600 3000 6750	2000 4000 -
	Dog	1 : 5	875 - 937.5	875	937.5
	I.P.	Mouse	1 : 5	910 -1200	500
Rat		1 : 5	1050 - 1230	500	750

P.O. = Per Oral (gavage)

I.P. = Intraperitoneal

a = One animal per sex per dose was used in this experiment

The data confirmed the low acute oral toxicity of DPD/ASA between 1000 to 6000 mg/kg in rodents and about 1000 mg/kg in dogs. After intraperitoneal administration toxicity in rodents was also low with values around 1000 mg/kg. Lower LD50 values were obtained in rat studies with a higher ASA portion (DPD/ASA 1:5) as compared with a lower ASA portion (DPD/ASA 8:1), which was equivalent

to the ratio in AGGRENOX. The studies demonstrate that higher ratios of ASA to dipyridamole result in greater toxicity as compared to lower ratios of ASA to dipyridamole. Moreover, there were no striking differences between animals dosed with 750 mg/kg ASA and rats given 6000 / 750 mg/kg DPD/ASA except for a prolonged recovery time period following drug administration.

From the results it can be concluded that the acute toxicity of DPD/ASA is determined by the ASA moiety within the combination. The dipyridamole portion remained without any recognizable additive or synergistic effect. As the pharmacokinetic profile of both components of the combination (see pharmacokinetic part), DPD and ASA, is not influenced by their concomitant administration, older experiments using a different ratio (1:4-6) of the components can be considered relevant for the assessment of possible toxic effects of the combination product AGGRENOX with a ratio of DPD/ASA of 8:1.

Autopsy results identify the gastric mucosa, kidneys and to a lesser extent the heart and vessels as target organs for toxicity in dogs. The rat was much less sensitive and histopathological evaluation did not reveal unequivocally drug-related lesions. These sites are well known target organs for acetylsalicylic acid and phosphodiesterase inhibitors.

LONG TERM TOXICITY

Determinations were made of the ability of DPD/ASA to produce toxicity during repeated dose regimens following daily administrations of the drug for 13 to 27 weeks in rats and dogs.

Table 7: REPEATED DOSE TOXICITY STUDIES AFTER ORAL ADMINISTRATION

Species	Dose DPD/ASA 1: 4-5 (mg/kg)	Duration (Weeks)	NOTEL (mg/kg)
Rat	0, 25, 100, 400	13 weeks	400
Rat	0, 25, 100, 400	24 weeks	100
Dog	0, 25, 100, 200, 400	24 weeks	25
Dog	0, 100, 200 ASA: 80, 160	27 weeks	<100 <80

The results of the repeated dose toxicity studies with the combination DPD + ASA in the ratio 1:4-5 indicated that DPD/ASA was well-tolerated in rats up to a dose of 100 mg/kg. The dose of 400 mg/kg induced only mild changes. Body weights and clinical pathology parameters (BUN, creatinine) were the parameters affected most significantly. Some histopathological lesions of the gastrointestinal tract and the kidneys were only observed in a few individuals and the relation to treatment remained equivocal.

The dog proved to be more sensitive, the high dose of 400 mg/kg being lethal after repeated administration. The gastric mucosa, kidneys, heart and vessels proved to be the target organs. Histopathological examinations revealed gastrointestinal irritation and/or ulceration, renal tubular atrophy with tubular inflammatory reaction and nephritis, myocardial lesions known as 'jet lesions', and panarteritis.

The more serious changes, gastrointestinal and renal lesions, were consistent with findings observed following administration of ASA.

The safety margins achieved in the repeated dose toxicity studies are listed below. They are calculated for a 50 kg person on a mg/kg and mg/m² basis.

Table 8: NOTELS AND SAFETY FACTORS IN REPEATED DOSE TOXICITY STUDIES

Species	NOTEL	DPD	ASA	Safety Factor (Exposure Animal:Human)			
				DPD		ASA	
				mg/kg	mg/m ²	mg/kg	mg/m ²
Rat	100	20	80	2.5	0.6	80	18
Dog	25	5	20	0.6	0.5	20	15

REPRODUCTION AND TERATOLOGY

The embryo/fetal toxicity of DPD/ASA 1:5.4 were assessed in rats and rabbits. Only maternotoxic doses caused embryo-fetal toxicity as evidenced by increased resorption rates/postimplantation losses. The results of teratology studies in rats and rabbits indicate that DPD/ASA does not induce malformations at the doses applied and that it does not enhance the teratogenic effect of acetylsalicylic acid.

Fertility studies with dipyridamole revealed no evidence of impaired fertility in rats at oral dosages of up to 1250 mg/kg, 156 times the maximum recommended human dose on a mg/kg basis for a 50 kg person (or 35 times on a mg/m² basis). ASA inhibits ovulation in rats.

The safety margins achieved in the reproduction toxicity studies are listed below. They are calculated for a 50 kg person on a mg/kg and mg/m² basis.

Table 9: NOTELS AND SAFETY FACTORS IN REPRODUCTION TOXICITY STUDIES

Species	NOTEL	DPD	ASA	Safety Factors (Exposure Animal:Human)			
				DPD		ASA	
				mg/kg	mg/m ²	mg/kg	mg/m ²
Rat	202.5	37.5	165	4.7	1.0	165	36
Rabbit	81	15	66	1.9	0.8	66	28

Teratology studies have been performed in rats and rabbits using a dose ratio of dipyridamole: ASA of 1:5.4. An increased resorption rate, which reached 100% in the rat, and a reduced litter weight were observed in both species at doses of 405 mg/kg in rats (75 mg/kg dipyridamole and 330 mg/kg ASA) and at doses of 135 mg/kg in rabbits (25 mg/kg dipyridamole and 110 mg/kg ASA). Malformations were observed exclusively in ASA groups running concurrently but not in the dipyridamole/ASA groups. Placental transfer of dipyridamole is very low.

MUTAGENICITY

In vivo and in vitro mutagenicity testing of the combination of dipyridamole and ASA at a ratio of 1:5 revealed no signs to suggest a mutagenic risk, both in the presence and in the absence of appropriate metabolic activating systems. Studies were performed to assess the potential of the drug to induce;

- a) reverse mutations in bacteria,

- b) chromosomal aberrations in mice and Chinese hamsters,
- c) the production of micronucleated erythrocytes in mice and Chinese hamsters,
- d) dominant lethal mutations in mice.

A combined mammalian/bacterial test (host mediated assay) was used to investigate the induction of reverse mutations in bacteria which were inoculated in mice. Positive control agents consistently exhibited the anticipated mutagenic activity. DPD/ASA, on the other hand, was consistently devoid of mutagenic potential. These findings lead to the conclusion that DPD/ASA does not pose a mutagenic hazard. Further, these findings are consistent with the conclusion that the drug does not possess carcinogenic potential in mice and rats.

CARCINOGENICITY

The tumorigenic potential of DPD/ASA was assessed in mice and rats through the conduct of chronic feeding studies. Maximum doses for both studies were 450 mg/kg, corresponding to a fraction of 75 mg/kg DPD and 375 mg/kg ASA. The studies were performed although the individual components dipyridamole and acetylsalicylic acid proved to be non-tumorigenic.

Localization, incidence, type of the tumors, and time of occurrence corresponded well within the groups in both studies and were typical for old mice and rats of the strains employed. Therefore, under the test conditions employed the combination DPD/ASA showed no tumorigenic potential at any dose level investigated.

The spectrum and incidence of microscopically determined non-neoplastic lesions were of a broad spectrum which is typical for old rats and mice of the strains employed.

The safety margins achieved in the carcinogenicity studies are listed below. They are calculated for a 50 kg person on a mg/kg and mg/m² basis.

Table 10: NOTELS AND SAFETY FACTORS IN CARCINOGENICITY STUDIES

Species	NOTEL mg/kg	DPD Mg/kg	ASA mg/kg	Safety Factors (exposure Animal:Human)			
				DPD		ASA	
				mg/kg	mg/m ²	mg/kg	mg/m ²
Mouse	450	75	375	9	1.5	375	58
Rat	450	75	375	9	2.1	375	83

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PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

Pr Aggrenox®

Dipyridamole/Acetylsalicylic Acid Capsules
 Extended Release Dipyridamole/Immediate Release
 Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA)

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when AGGRENOX was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about AGGRENOX. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

AGGRENOX capsules are prescribed to help prevent a stroke in people who have had a prior stroke or a transient ischemic attack (TIA).

Stroke is caused by the interruption of the blood supply to the brain and often results in brain damage. A stroke can affect people in different ways. The damage caused by a stroke can affect your senses, your ability to move, your speech, your ability to understand speech, how you behave, how you think, and your memory.

Transient Ischemic Attack is a temporary interference with blood supply to the brain. The symptoms of TIA include dizziness, light-headedness, numbness, and difficulty swallowing. They may last for only a few minutes or several hours.

AGGRENOX has been prescribed to you. DO NOT give it to anyone else, even if you think they have the same condition as you.

What it does:

AGGRENOX capsules belong to a group of medicines called antiplatelet drugs. Platelets are very small structures in blood, which clump together during blood clotting.

AGGRENOX works by preventing the early formation of blood clots (a process called thrombosis).

When it should not be used:

AGGRENOX should not be used if you:

- are sensitive or allergic to any component of the drug, including ASA (Aspirin®) (see "What the non-medicinal ingredients are");
- have allergy to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs);
- have active stomach or duodenal ulcers or bleeding

disorders;

- have asthma, rhinitis or nasal polyps;
- have fructose and/or galactose intolerance;
- are in the third trimester of pregnancy.

What the medicinal ingredients are:

AGGRENOX is a combination of dipyridamole and acetylsalicylic acid (ASA). AGGRENOX is not interchangeable with the individual components of ASA and dipyridamole tablets.

What the non-medicinal ingredients are (in alphabetical order):

Acacia, aluminium stearate, colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, dimethicone, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, lactose monohydrate, methacrylic acid copolymer, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, stearic acid, sucrose, talc, tartaric acid, titanium dioxide, and triacetin.

The capsule shell contains gelatine, red iron oxide and yellow iron oxide, titanium dioxide and water.

What dosage forms it comes in:

Capsules - each capsule contains yellow extended release pellets of dipyridamole (200 mg) and a round, white tablet of ASA (25 mg).

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

BEFORE you use AGGRENOX talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Your doctor will advise you that this medication should not be taken during the third trimester of pregnancy and will discuss with you whether it should be taken in the first and second trimester;
- are breast feeding. Both dipyridamole and ASA are excreted in human breast milk. You and your doctor will discuss this issue;
- are consuming alcoholic beverages;
- have any other health problems, including anaemia, liver disease, renal (kidney) disorders, history of stomach or duodenal ulcers, bleeding disorders (such as haemophilia), heart disease (including angina and recent heart attack), gout, and abnormal menstruation or vaginal bleeding;
- are taking any other medication, including any other medication you can buy without a prescription; medication such as acetylsalicylic acid; drugs used to reduce blood clotting such as warfarin and heparin; antiplatelet agents (e.g. clopidogrel, ticlopidine), NSAIDs used to treat painful and/or inflammatory muscle and joint

conditions; or anti-diabetic medicines. (See “Interactions with this medication”);

- will be having surgery. Your doctor may ask you to stop AGGRENOX for 10 days before your surgery;
- have a history of hemorrhagic stroke (stroke due to bleeding).

Long term daily use of ibuprofen can interfere with the preventative benefits of AGGRENOX. (See “Interactions with this medication”).

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

DO NOT take any other medication unless your doctor tells you to. Please tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including drugs prescribed by other doctors, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

AGGRENOX contains ASA (Aspirin®*). You should not take AGGRENOX with the following medications without the advice of your doctor:

- other medications containing ASA;
- other blood thinners (e.g. warfarin or heparin);
- antiplatelet agents (e.g. clopidogrel, ticlopidine);
- selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs: e.g. sertraline, fluoxetine);
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs, including ibuprofen);
- methotrexate;
- drugs affecting gout;
- anagrelide (platelet-reducing agent);
- adenosine;
- cholinesterase inhibitors (e.g. some medications used for Myasthenia Gravis Syndrome);
- acetazolamide;
- angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors (e.g. enalapril, captopril);
- phenytoin or valproic acid;
- beta-blockers (e.g. atenolol, propranolol);
- corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone);
- diuretics (e.g. hydrochlorothiazide, furosemide);
- oral hypoglycaemics for diabetes.

If you experience symptoms such as dizziness or confusion you should avoid potentially hazardous tasks such as driving or operating machinery.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Usual dose:

Adults (including the elderly):

The recommended dosage is one capsule twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening, with or without food. The capsules should be swallowed whole without chewing.

Alternative regimen in case of intolerable headaches:

In the event of intolerable headaches soon after starting treatment with AGGRENOX, talk to your doctor about an alternative dosing regimen. This regimen is comprised of one capsule of AGGRENOX at bedtime and a low dose of ASA in the morning. Headaches should become less of a problem as treatment continues, usually within one week. After a week or so without headache, your doctor will generally recommend that you return to the usual twice-daily dosing regimen of AGGRENOX.

Children and adolescents:

AGGRENOX is not recommended for children or adolescents below 18 years of age.

Missed dose:

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember, but if it is almost time for the next dose, wait and take your next dose. Do not take a double dose.

Overdose:

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Do not exceed the recommended dosage of AGGRENOX. If you accidentally take too many capsules, you should get medical help immediately, either by calling your doctor or by going to the nearest hospital. Always take the labelled medicine container with you whether or not there are any AGGRENOX capsules remaining. Symptoms of overdosage, especially in the elderly patients, are: ear buzzing, sensation of decreased hearing acuity, and headaches.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

You should be aware that AGGRENOX as a prescription medicine may cause side effects. In most cases these side effects are mild and may disappear with continued treatment. Discuss with your doctor the risks of taking AGGRENOX against the expected benefits. If you do experience any unusual or unwanted effects while you are using AGGRENOX, you should contact your doctor.

Some patients starting on AGGRENOX may develop a severe headache due to the dilation of the vessels in the brain related to the dipyridamole component of the drug. This headache tends to decrease and go away as the body gets used to the medicine. If you develop a severe headache call your doctor.

AGGRENOX is a blood thinner and you may experience bleeding from the nose, bleeding around the gums when eating or brushing teeth, blood in the urine or in the stools, or bruising more easily. If you notice abnormal or excessive bleeding tell your doctor.

Very common side effects include: headache, dizziness, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, nausea, abdominal pain.

Common side effects include: anaemia, hypersensitivity reaction (such as rash, urticaria, bronchospasm, edema), migraine like headache, vomiting, fainting, muscle pain, bleeding inside the brain.

Uncommon side effects include: low blood pressure, stomach ulcer, rapid heart beat, bleeding inside the eye, hot flashes.

Rare side effects include: iron deficiency anemia, reduction in platelet count and erosions in the stomach lining.

The following side effects have also been reported: purple-colored spots and patches on the skin, prolonged bleeding time, bleeding after surgery or other procedures.

If you experience any of the above symptoms that become bothersome, consult your doctor.

Consult your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your doctor or pharmacist
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Allergic reaction (symptoms like itching, swelling of the face, lips, tongue and throat, difficulty in breathing etc.)			✓
	Internal bleeding with symptoms such as easy bruising, bleeding nose and gums, bloody urine, dark stools, persistent abdominal pain and vomiting.			✓

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / effect	Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and call your
	Gastrointestinal problems such as ulcers, or gastritis (stomach inflammation) with symptoms such as abdominal pain, bloody urine or dark stools.		
Anaemia (reduction in red blood cells) with symptoms such as fatigue, breathlessness, loss of stamina, fast heartbeat.		✓	
Uncommon Worsening of heart problems such as angina (symptoms such as weakness, pain, breathlessness)		✓	

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking AGGRENOX, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

- AGGRENOX capsules must be kept out of the reach of children.
- AGGRENOX should be stored at room temperature (15-30°C). Keep AGGRENOX in the sealed container provided by your doctor or pharmacist, and protect from excessive moisture.
- The expiry date of this medicine is printed on the label. Do not use the medicine after this date has passed.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
 - Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
 - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program
Health Canada
Postal Locator 0701D
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect.

NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at: www.boehringer-ingelheim.ca or by contacting the sponsor, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., at: 1-800-263-5103, ext. 84633 (Medical Information).

Please check our website to see if more up-to-date information has been posted.

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