

# Your medication information for CORONARY ARTERY DISEASE



## Introduction

Medicines for coronary artery disease are used in combination with lifestyle changes to:

- ♥ Prevent unwanted blood clots within the coronary arteries and/or stents
- ♥ Prevent further build-up of cholesterol in the blood vessels
- ♥ Decrease the workload of the heart and allow the heart to pump more efficiently
- ♥ Prevent further angina and heart attacks, enabling you to participate in activities you enjoy
- ♥ Allow you to live longer.

You may be treated with a combination of medicines to achieve these goals.

## Tips for taking your medicines

**Learn the active ingredient names of your medicines.**

- ♥ Many medicines have more than one brand name available.
- ♥ In most cases it doesn't matter which brand you use, but switching brands can be confusing.
- ♥ To avoid mistakes, remember your medicines by their active ingredient names.

**Keep an up-to-date list of your medicines with you in your wallet or handbag.**

- ♥ Include the details of any medicines you are allergic to or have had a bad reaction to.
- ♥ Bring your list with you to all your medical appointments.

**Tell your pharmacist if you have trouble managing your medicines.**

- ♥ They can help you find ways to make it easier, such as a weekly tablet organiser.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have concerns about side effects.**

- ♥ All medicines can cause side effects, but serious side effects are rare.
- ♥ Do not be alarmed by the list of possible side effects, as you may not experience any.
- ♥ If you do have side effects, your doctor and pharmacist can help you to manage them.

**Do not stop taking your medicines unless your doctor tells you to.**

- ♥ Stopping some medicines suddenly can make your symptoms worse or increase your risk of having a heart attack.
- ♥ Always make sure you have enough medicines so you do not run out.

**If you forget to take a dose of medicine, skip that dose and take the next dose as usual.**

- ♥ Do not take a double dose to catch up.

**Store your medicines in a cool, dry, dark place out of the reach of children.**

**Do not share your medicines with others, even if they have the same symptoms as you.**

**Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines, including medicines you buy over the counter from a pharmacy or health food shop.**

**Use medicines in combination with healthy lifestyle changes.**

- ♥ Stop smoking, eat a low fat/low salt diet, and do exercise approved by your doctor.

## Further information

This leaflet answers some common questions about medicines for coronary artery disease, but does not include all the available information. If you have any concerns about taking your medicines, or if you would like to know more, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist.



**For more advice about information in this leaflet, contact:**

Monash Medicines Information -

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