

Taking Clopidogrel (Plavix®) and Some Proton Pump Inhibitors May Increase Risk of Having Heart Attack

Taking clopidogrel (Plavix®) with certain proton pump inhibitors after a heart attack may make people more likely to have another heart attack.

What does this mean?

- Clopidogrel (Plavix®) is a drug that normally reduces the chances of having another heart attack.
- Proton pump inhibitors reduce acid production.
- When taken together, certain proton pump inhibitors (Prilosec®, Prevacid®, or Aciphex®) reduce the effect of clopidogrel; which may increase the chances of having heart attack
- This drug interaction is not seen with patients taking pantoprazole (Pantoloc®) with clopidogrel (Plavix®)

Clinical Implications

- Reassess the need for using a proton pump inhibitor with clopidogrel (Plavix®).
- Preferentially prescribe pantoprazole (Pantoloc®) when one is indicated.

How do we know this?

The ODPRN tracked the health records of 13,636 Ontario residents aged 66 years and older who had a heart attack between 2002 and 2007 and were prescribed clopidogrel (Plavix®). Patients who were also taking a proton pump inhibitor (Losec®, Prevacid®, or others) after their heart attack had a 40% higher risk of having another heart attack, heart failure, or dying than those who were not taking a proton pump inhibitor. Taking pantoprazole (Pantoloc®) with clopidogrel (Plavix®) was not associated with higher risk of a heart attack or death.

Juurlink DN, Gomes T, Ko DT, Szmítko PE, Austin PC, Tu JV, Henry DA, Kopp A, Mamdani MM. A population-based study of the drug interaction between proton pump inhibitors and clopidogrel. *CMAJ* 2009;180(7):713-8.

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