Acetylsalicylic Acid (Aspirin)

Acetylsalicylic acid is used as an anticoagulant in the setting of chest pain and stroke. It inhibits the formation of thromboxane A2 and the production of prostacyclin. The overall effect is to inhibit platelet aggregation that can occur on top of clots and plaques.

Indications and Administration

1. Suspected cardiac chest pain.
    a. **Adult -** 325 mg as 4 children's chewable or 1 adult aspirin PO if the patient is able to swallow voluntarily. Have the patient chew the aspirin before swallowing.

Notes

1. Contraindicated in patients who have an allergy to aspirin or aspirin products. Some asthmatics may develop wheezing from aspirin, which can progress to severe difficulty breathing.
2. Aspirin should not be given to patients with known internal bleeding disorders. External bleeding can be controlled with direct pressure.
3. Patients who say they cannot take aspirin per their doctor should not be forced to take it.
4. Side effects include abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, increased bleeding.