

NORTH CASCADE CARDIOLOGY

Providing excellence in cardiovascular care

Position Statement From North Cascade Cardiology Re: Some anti-acid Medications may Reduce Plavix Efficacy

Recent clinical studies have shown an adverse interaction between a commonly used heart medication clopidogrel (Plavix), and certain medications used to reduce stomach acid called proton pump inhibitors. The medication clopidogrel is commonly used after stents are placed to open up coronary artery blockages. Clopidogrel helps prevent blood clots forming in the stents, and it is very important for patients on clopidogrel to continue taking this medication, usually along with aspirin. The proton pump inhibitors that interfere with the beneficial effects of clopidogrel are omeprazole, lansoprazole, and rabeprazole (brand names Prilosec, Prevacid, Aciphex). These medications should be avoided if you are taking clopidogrel. Another medication in the proton pump inhibitor family, pantoprazole (brand name Protonix) can be safely used in patients taking clopidogrel. If you are taking a proton pump inhibitor other than pantoprazole (Protonix) and you are on clopidogrel, please contact your doctor who prescribed the proton pump inhibitor and request an immediate change to pantoprazole (brand name Protonix) or an unrelated stomach acid medication called an H2 blocker.

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