Aspirin

MEDICATION

THE DRUG

Class: antiplatelet agent

Acetylates a serine residue in COX-1 and COX-2, irreversibly inhibiting both enzymes

Blocks platelet aggregation

Relieves pain by inhibiting production of prostaglandins

USE IT FOR

- New chest pain suggestive of AMI
- If a 12 lead is performed, aspirin must be given unless documentation clearly indicates why it was not indicated

DON'T GIVE / CAUTION

- Hypersensitivity; GI bleeding; stroke; active ulcers; trauma
- Precautions: stomach problems, asthma

DOSE

Adult: 324 mg PO

Peds: Not stated on the page

Repeat: Not stated on the page

WATCH FOR

- Nausea/vomiting
- Heartburn
- Wheezing

PEARLS

- Onset <20 minutes; peak and half-life 4-6 hours (per the page's pharmacokinetics panel)

Take Home Message:

New chest pain suggestive of AMI gets 324 mg aspirin PO — and if it isn't given, the chart must say why.