Asasantin SR is a medicine that contains two active substances: acetylsalicylic acid, better known as Aspirin and dipyridamole. It belongs to a family of drugs called platelet aggregation inhibitors and is used for secondary stroke prevention. It works by preventing the platelets from clogging and creating thrombus that could cause a complete or partial blockage of the blood vessel in the brain.

**Contraindications**

Asasantin SR is contraindicated in patients who have stomach or duodenal ulcer or other forms of bleeding. One of the most important role of platelets is to stop the bleeding, and blocking their aggregation makes it difficult to stop bleeding.

It is also contraindicated in patients who have known hypersensitivity to acetylsalicylic acid or dipyridamole.

There is data that support the harmful effects of this drug during pregnancy, which is why its use during pregnancy is contraindicated.

It is contraindicated in children under 16 years of age due to the possible occurrence of Reye syndrome.

**Warnings**

Dipyridamole causes the dilatation of blood vessels, which reduces blood pressure and can
increase blood flow to the heart. For this reason, Asasantin SR should be avoided in patients who have unstable angina, heart failure, hypotension, or have recently had a heart attack.

Asasantin SR should be used with caution in patients taking medicines that increase the risk of bleeding (e.g. anticoagulant drugs or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors).

Migraine is often reported as an adverse effect at the beginning of therapy. Migraine is usually transient, but if symptoms persist then you should contact a doctor. This type of migraine should not be treated with high doses of aspirin.

Acetylsalicylic acid can cause bronchoconstriction, which is why this medicine should be avoided in patients with asthma.

Caution is also needed in patients with kidney or liver damage.

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**Asasantin SR, pregnancy and breastfeeding**

According to the FDA, this drug increases the risk of intracranial haemorrhage in newborns whose mothers took this medication during the last three months of pregnancy. Also, Aspirin is known to cause premature closure of the ductus arteriosus, which can cause cardiovascular abnormalities in the fetus. For this reason, the use of this medication during the third trimester of pregnancy is strictly contraindicated.

Asasantin SR can be administered during the first and second trimester of pregnancy only if doctors consider that the benefit to the mother is greater than the risk for the fetus.

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**Dosage**

The usual dose is one capsule in the morning and one capsule in the evening (*one capsule contains 200 mg of dipyridamole and 25 mg of acetylsalicylic acid*). It is recommended to take a capsule with food to reduce the negative effects on the mucous membrane of the stomach.

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**Interactions**

Asasantin SR can interact with the following medicines, so the simultaneous use with these medicines must be avoided:

- Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (so-called **ACE inhibitors**) used in the treatment of numerous cardiac diseases, such as:
  - ramipril
  - captopril
  - lisinopril
  - cilazapril
  - enalapril
and others. Acetylsalicylic acid can interfere with the hypotensive effect of these drugs.
- Blockers of beta-2 receptors (so-called **beta-blockers**) used in the treatment of a numerous cardiac diseases, such as:
  - propranolol
  - nebivolol
  - carvedilol
- metoprolol
- bisoprolol

and others. Asasantin SR reduces the efficacy of these drugs.

- **Diuretics** - medicines used to treat hypertension and heart failure, such as:
  - hydrochlorothiazide
  - spironolactone
  - bumetanide
  - furosemide

and others. Asasantin SR reduces the efficacy of these drugs.

- **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs**, such as:
  - diclofenac
  - ibuprofen
  - ketoprofen
  - flurbiprofen
  - indomethacin

and others. Simultaneous administration with these medicines increases the risk of bleeding.

- **Oral anti-diabetics**, such as:
  - glimepiride
  - gliclazide
  - metformin

and others. Asasantin SR can increase the effects of these drugs, which can cause hypoglycaemia.

- **Medicines used to treat gout**, such as: probenecid. Asasantin SR reduces the efficacy of these drugs.

- **Anticoagulant drugs** *(e.g. warfarin and heparin derivatives).*

- **Anticonvulsants** *(e.g. phenytoin and valproic acid).*

- **Methotrexate** - a medicine used to treat cancer and autoimmune diseases. Asasantin SR increases the concentration of this drug in the blood which increases the risk of methotrexate toxicity.

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**Side effects**

Asasantin SR can cause the following side effects:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Stomach pain
- Presence of blood in the stool
- Bleeding in the stomach
- Bleeding of the rectum
- Stomach ulcer
- Dyspepsia
- Anemia
- Pain in the joints or muscle
- Low platelet count
- Rapid heart rate
- Arrhythmia
- Migraine
- Low blood pressure
• Proteinuria
• Taste loss
• Flushing
• Hearing loss
• Interstitial nephritis
• Bleeding gums
• Allergy

References

1. Medicines.org link
2. NCBI link
3. accessdata link