**Clopidogrel**

**Generic and Proprietary Names**
- Clopidogrel.
- Plavix.

**Action**
- Inhibits the first and second phase of ADP-induced effects in platelet aggregation.

**Classification**
- Antiplatelet drugs.

**Indications**
- Prevention of ischaemic events in symptomatic ischaemic disease.
- In combination with low-dose aspirin in acute coronary syndrome without ST elevation.

**Contraindications**
- Active bleeding.
- Breastfeeding.

**Cautions**
- Avoid in first few days post-myocardial infarction and for seven days post-stroke.
- Increased risk of bleeding.
- Liver or renal impairment.
- Pregnancy.

**Common Side-effects**
- Dyspepsia.
- Gastrointestinal problems.
- Bleeding disorders.
- Headache.
- Dizziness.
- Paraesthesia.
- Leucopenia.

**Rare Side-effects**
- Colitis.
- Pancreatitis.
- Hepatitis.
- Vasculitis.
- Confusion.
- Hallucinations.
- Taste disturbance.
- Blood disorders.
- Hypersensitivity-like reactions.

**Administration**
- Oral.
- Administer with food to reduce gastric symptoms.

**Nursing Considerations**
- Discontinue medication seven days before elective surgery if antiplatelet effect is not desirable.
- The combination of low-dose aspirin and clopidogrel in acute coronary syndrome without ST elevation is given for at least one month but no longer than 9–12 months. The routine long-term use of this combination increases the risk of bleeding without clear evidence of benefits.

**References**