

# ASA Desensitization

## What is ASA?

Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) is a medication that has several uses. Some use it for pain control, while others may use it to minimize risk of blood clot after a heart attack or stroke. For those with a history of asthma and nasal polyps, high dose ASA is often the recommended treatment to decrease the regrowth of nasal polyps and reduce the need for corticosteroid medications.

## What is ASA desensitization?

ASA desensitization is the process by which small amounts of ASA will be administered to expose, and build up, a tolerance to the medication. The dose will gradually increase in strength over one to two days until the full high dose is tolerated.

## Information regarding your ASA desensitization:

- Your desensitization could be booked for one or two full days, depending on your treatment plan.
- You will remain in the clinic from 9 am until 5 pm, during the desensitization process.
- You will **not** be able to leave the clinic for any reason, including to buy coffee, lunch, move your car, etc. Please be sure you bring what you need for the duration of the day.
- Consider bringing a book to read or something to keep you occupied. There is also a shared TV in the clinic.
- Continue taking all of your usual medications and be sure to bring any medications you need during the day; i.e., inhaler. Take any pre-medications as directed by your physician.
- A pulmonary function test will be conducted upon your arrival, and regularly throughout the day, to make sure you are safe.
- Be sure to let the nurse or doctor know if you are not feeling well during the desensitization process.
- If you have any kind of reaction, you might not feel well enough to drive home. Please plan to have a driver available for transportation home.

## What should I do if I miss a dose of ASA?

Contact the clinic as soon as possible for further instruction.

If you have any questions, call our office at: 519 646-6000, ext. 61353.

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