Notice to our Patients taking Plavix (Clopidogrel) together with heartburn medications known as Protein Pump Inhibitors (PPI's)

We now have convincing evidence that there is a substantial interaction between Plavix (Clopidogrel) and the class of acid blockers called Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI's). The Proton Pump Inhibitors are Nexium, Protonix, Prevacid, Aciphex, Zegerid and Omeprazole. Although there have been suggestions of this interaction for a short while, a new larger study of 16,690 patients proved that the interaction is confirmed and it is substantial.

As it stands now, the recommendation by our Medical Office and from the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions is as follows:

Patients taking Plavix AND a Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) should switch the PPI for another type of acid blocker such as Pepcid, Zantac or Tagamet.

If you have had a recent cardiac (heart) stent and you are taking Plavix AND a PPI (Nexium, Protonix, Prevacid, Zegerid, Aciphex), **we ask that you stop the PPI and call your Cardiologist immediately**. This is critically important for patients who are taking Plavix after a recent coronary artery stent.

Please call my office immediately at (805) 492-4800 so that we can switch you to another acid reducing medicine such as Pepcid, Zantac or Tagamet. These acid reducers are over-the-counter and appear to be safe when taken with Plavix. Thank you for your serious and prompt attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Alister A. George, MD