

## Drug Treatment for PAD

Agent	Mechanism of Action	Dosage	Benefits	Side Effects	Notes
<a href="#">Aspirin</a>	Cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor	81 mg/d	Reduced risk of cardiovascular events, including stroke and MI	Bleeding, GI upset	Use for all patients with PAD for primary prevention and to improve revascularization patency
<a href="#">Clopidogrel</a>	Inhibits platelet function	75 mg/d	Reduced risk of stroke and MI, slightly better than aspirin	Bleeding, rare bone marrow suppression	More costly than aspirin. No definitive data for improvement in bypass patency over aspirin
<a href="#">Simvastatin</a> , <a href="#">atorvastatin</a> , <a href="#">lovastatin</a> , <a href="#">pravastatin</a>	Decreases cholesterol and has vascular anti-inflammatory effects	20-80 mg/d	Anti-inflammatory vascular effects independent of lipid lowering; improved walking distance	Myalgia, liver dysfunction	Use for all patients with PAD unless contraindications or intolerance. Proven to slightly reduce claudication symptoms and improve surgical bypass patency
<a href="#">Cilostazol</a>	Vasodilates peripheral arteries and mild antiplatelet effect	100 mg bid	Peripheral arteriolar dilator, decreased platelet aggregation	Tachycardia, headaches, precipitation of CHF	Proven to decrease claudication symptoms, but costly and should not supersede diet, exercise, and smoking cessation
<a href="#">Ramipril</a>	Vasodilation and decreased angiotensin II	10 mg/d	Increased pain-free and maximum walking time	Coughs and renal dysfunction	One randomized controlled trial supports this observation, but the cardiovascular benefits of ACE inhibitors are well documented, which makes this a reasonable first-line blood pressure medication for patients with PAD ( <a href="#">127</a> )
<a href="#">Pentoxifylline</a>	Causes laxity of RBC membrane	400 mg tid	Improve blood flow through stenosed vessels	Headaches, gastrointestinal upset	Less solid evidence for its benefit, but worth considering in patients who do not tolerate cilostazol

ACE = angiotensin-converting enzyme; bid = twice daily; CHF = congestive heart failure; GI = gastrointestinal; MI = myocardial infarction; PAD = peripheral arterial disease; RBC = red blood cell (erythrocyte); tid = three times daily.