

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3460  
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009  
STUDY ON SIDE EFFECTS OF ASPIRIN  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether as per the study published in the medical journal `Lancet` the side effects of Aspirin taken as a medicine to prevent heart attacks and strokes by healthy people may be dangerous; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b): As per the report published in Lancet, in primary prevention without previous disease (i.e. in healthy individuals), aspirin is of uncertain net value as the reduction of serious vascular events needs to be weighed against any increase in major bleeds. In the secondary prevention trials, aspirin allocation yielded a greater absolute reduction in serious vascular events with a non-significant increase in hemorrhagic stroke but reductions of about a fifth in total stroke and in coronary events. However, its daily use can result in side effects like gastrointestinal bleeding etc. Therefore, Aspirin for primary prevention should be used with caution.