

DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®)

WHY AM I TAKING DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®)?

- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) is most commonly prescribed for people with an irregular heartbeat known as non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AF). This medication is used to decrease the risk of stroke.

HOW DOES DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®) WORK?

- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) is an anticoagulant. “Anti” means against and “coagulant” means clotting. Sometimes this medication is also called a blood thinner. An anticoagulant helps to prevent clots from forming in the blood.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®)?

- Taking dabigatran (Pradaxa®) increases the chance you will have a bleeding complication. Minor bruising or bleeding may occur (small bruises, slight gum bleeding when brushing teeth or an occasional nosebleed). Major bleeding is rare, but may be as high as 1 person out of 100 each year.
- Another common side effect seen with this medication is an upset stomach, such as nausea, heartburn or abdominal pain.

WHEN SHOULD I CONTACT MY PHYSICIAN OR GET MEDICAL ATTENTION?

- If you have unexpected bleeding that doesn't stop or improve after about 10 minutes
 - Frequent or long-lasting nosebleeds (more than 10 minutes)
 - Unusual bleeding from the gums
 - Abnormally heavy menstrual bleeding
 - Coughing up more than a teaspoon (5cc) of blood
- Red, pink, or brown urine
- Bright red blood mixed with a bowel movement, or black stools that look like tar
- Vomit that looks like coffee grounds (black/brown colored) or that is bright red
- New drainage at wound sites
- If you suffer a head injury
- If you are pregnant or plan on becoming pregnant

CAN I TAKE DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®) WITH MY OTHER MEDICATIONS?

- It is important to talk with your doctor about all of the other medications that you are taking, including over-the-counter medicines, antibiotics, vitamins, or herbal products
- You may have an increased risk of bleeding if you take other medications like aspirin or ibuprofen
- Speak with your doctor before starting any new medications

HOW SHOULD I TAKE DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®)? Take your medication exactly as prescribed

- Take dabigatran (Pradaxa®) by mouth twice daily as instructed by your doctor
- Swallow capsules whole. Do not open, break or chew
- You can take dabigatran (Pradaxa®) on an empty stomach or with food
- Store capsules in the original bottle or original blister packs to protect them from moisture
- **DO NOT PUT CAPSULES IN A PILL BOX**

WHAT IF I MISS A DOSE?

- It is very important to take this medication regularly every 12 hours to prevent blood clots/reduce your risk of stroke. If you travel or leave your home for over 12 hours, be sure you have doses of dabigatran (Pradaxa®) available to take

- Take your missed dose as soon as you remember
- Do not take the missed dose if your next dose needs to be taken within the next 6 hours
- Never take two doses together to make up for a missed dose

CAN I STOP TAKING DABIGATRAN (PRADAXA®)?

- Do not stop taking dabigatran (Pradaxa®) unless a healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You may need to stop dabigatran (Pradaxa®) before any procedure or a surgery. Ask your provider for specific instructions on when to stop taking the medication and when to restart.
- If you want to discontinue dabigatran (Pradaxa®) for any reason, contact your health care provider immediately before stopping.