

Patient Information Sheet

Pradaxa (Dabigatran)

Why am I taking Pradaxa?

Pradaxa helps to lower the risk of stroke and blood clots in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation.

How does pradaxa work?

Pradaxa is a blood thinner that helps to lower the chance of a blood clot developing in your body.

What dose should I take?

Your doctor will tell you what dose is best for you to take.

- The usual dose is 150 mg twice a day. The dose can be taken with or without food. If you have stomach upset with the dose, then take the dose with food.
- A lower dose, 75 mg twice a day, may be used if your kidneys are not working properly.

How is pradaxa supplied?

- Both the 75 mg and 150 mg capsules are supplied in unit of use bottles of 60 capsules or blister packages containing 60 capsules .

How do I take pradaxa?

- Take pradaxa capsules whole. The capsules should not be broken, chewed, or opened.
- The capsules can be taken with or without food. If your stomach becomes upset after taking the dose, then take the dose with food.

What if I miss a dose?

- If a dose is missed then it should be taken as soon as you remember. If the next dose is **less than** 6 hours away, then do **not** take the missed dose. Two doses should not be taken at the same time.
- Try to never miss a dose. The doses need to be taken in the morning and in the evening very consistently.
- Do not stop taking the pradaxa without first talking to your doctor since stopping pradaxa may increase your chance of having a stroke.

What if I take too much pradaxa?

If you take too much pradaxa, go to the nearest emergency room or contact your doctor right away.

How should pradaxa be stored?

- Pradaxa should be stored at room temperature between 59 to 86 degrees F.
- Pradaxa should be **kept in the original package to keep it dry**. The bottle should be tightly closed.

- **After opening the bottle the capsules need to be used within four months. Any unused pradaxa should be thrown away after four months. Write the date that you opened the bottle on the side of bottle to help you remember.**

What side effects may I have with pradaxa?

The most common side effects are: upset stomach, indigestion and stomach pain.

Allergic reactions: Pradaxa may cause allergic reactions such as hives, rash and itching. If you have any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction then get medical help immediately: chest pain or tightness, swelling of the face or tongue, trouble breathing, feeling dizzy.

Since pradaxa is a blood thinner you will be at an increased risk of bleeding. You may be more likely to bruise and it may take longer to stop bleeding.

When should I be concerned about bleeding?

There is no antidote for pradaxa currently. If you have any of the following signs or symptoms of bleeding get medical help or contact your doctor right away:

- unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time: unusual bleeding from the gums, nose bleeds that happen frequently, menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than usual.
- Bleeding you cannot control
- Pink or brown urine
- Red or black (looks like tar) stools
- Cough up blood or blood clots
- Vomit blood or "coffee ground" vomit
- Unexpected pain, swelling or joint pain
- Headaches, feeling dizzy or weak

Can I take pradaxa if I become pregnant?

It is not known if pradaxa will hurt your unborn baby. Let your doctor know if you become pregnant.

What should I do if I need to have surgery?

Let your doctor know *before* you have surgery or a medical or dental procedure.

Are there any drug interactions with pradaxa?

There are a few medications that may affect the way pradaxa works. Keep a list of your medications with you and show it to your doctor each time you get a new medication.

Do I need to get any blood tests while I am taking pradaxa?

Pradaxa does not need to be monitored with a blood test.