

# Pradaxa<sup>®</sup> (Dabigatran)

## What is Pradaxa (Dabigatran)?

Pradaxa is a medicine to prevent blood clots from forming in any of these situations:

- atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat) not caused by a valve problem (Atrial fibrillation can increase your risk of blood clots that travel to your brain and cause a stroke.)
- new blood clot in the veins (deep vein thrombosis) or lung arteries (pulmonary embolism) after 5 to 10 days of using heparin
- preventing repeated deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolism or both after the initial treatment.

This medicine is known as an anticoagulant (blood-thinner). It makes it harder for your blood to clot.

## How is it Given?

- Pradaxa is a capsule you swallow whole with water.
- Do not open, crush or chew the capsules.

## What if You Forget a Dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember that same day. If it is within 6 hours of your next dose, wait until then and take your regular dose. Then resume your usual schedule.

Do not take more than 1 dose at a time and do not take an extra dose.

## What Side Effects May Occur?

The most common side effect is bleeding. You may bleed or bruise more easily or for a longer time.

## Special Notes

- Take this medicine as directed.
- Don't stop taking this medicine without talking with your doctor.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription, over-the-counter medicines, pain-killers, vitamins, herbals, minerals and natural products you are taking or plan to take.
- Ask your doctor before you take any medicines that can thin your blood. They include:
  - aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) or aspirin-like products (magnesium salicylate), such as Excedrin<sup>®</sup> or Doan's<sup>®</sup>
  - ibuprofen, such as Advil<sup>®</sup> or Motrin<sup>®</sup>
  - naproxen, such as Aleve or<sup>®</sup> Naprosyn<sup>®</sup>Some over-the-counter cold or combination products contain these ingredients. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.
- Tell all of the health care providers you see — including your dentist — that you are taking this medicine. They will need to talk with the doctor who prescribed it before you have any surgery or medical or dental procedure.

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## When To See or Call Your Doctor

**Important:** See the doctor who prescribed the medicine 1 month after you started using it to make sure the medicine is still right for you and safe to take for a long time.

Call your doctor right away if you have:

- bruises that appear without a reason or that get bigger
- coughing up or throwing up blood
- dark or tarry stools
- red, pink or brown urine
- vaginal bleeding that isn't normal
- nosebleeds that happen often
- bleeding from the gums
- bleeding that doesn't stop
- headaches
- feeling dizzy or weak
- pain, swelling or new drainage at an incision site.

For more complete information or for questions about this medicine, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.