

# Dofetilide (Tikosyn®) in the Hospital

## Dofetilide (Tikosyn®)

Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heartbeat that causes your heart to beat in an irregular rhythm. Dofetilide is a medicine that helps your heart maintain a normal rhythm.

You need a hospital stay to start dofetilide.

Members of your health care team will give you an electrocardiogram (EKG) after each dose for the first 6 doses. This test helps them see how well your heart's electrical system is working.

Your hospital stay may last up to 4 days.

## Before Your Hospital Stay

- It is important you do not miss any doses of your blood-thinning (anticoagulation) medicine in the 3 weeks before your hospital stay.
  - Call 1-855-644-4787 if you missed a dose.
- If you take warfarin (Jantoven®), you will need an INR (international normalized ratio) between 2.0 to 3.0 for at least 3 weeks in a row so you can start taking dofetilide.
  - Call 1-855-644-4787 if your INR is below 2.0.

## Morning Before Your Hospital Stay

- Do not eat or drink anything after 4 a.m. the morning you go to the hospital.

## Arriving at the Hospital

- Your hospital stay will start on a Monday or a Tuesday afternoon (about 1 to 2 p.m.).
- Check in at the first floor admitting desk at Abbott Northwestern Hospital Heart Hospital.
- You will be able to eat once it has been confirmed you have not missed any doses of your blood-thinner medicine.
  - If you take warfarin, an INR will need to be checked.
  - You can eat if your INR is in the range of 2.0 to 3.0.

## During Your Hospital Stay

- You will have these tests:
  - an EKG
  - lab work to check your electrolytes and how well your kidneys are working
  - an INR to check how long it takes your blood to clot, if needed.
- You will receive dofetilide at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

**(over)**

- The electrophysiology provider (doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant) will check your EKG 2 to 3 hours after you receive the medicine. Your next dose may be changed based on the EKG results.
- If dofetilide does not help your heart beat regularly, you will have a cardioversion on the third day of your hospital stay.
  - This process uses a small amount of electrical energy to make your irregular or rapid heartbeat regular and slower.
  - Special patches are placed on your chest. You will receive short-acting anesthesia.
  - The energy is given to your heart through the patches.
  - The health care staff includes a cardiology provider (doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant), anesthesiologist (doctor of anesthesia) and a specially trained nurse.
  - The process may take 2 hours or longer.

## When You Will Leave the Hospital (Discharge)

You can go home on day 4 of your hospital stay if:

- you do not have side effects
- you had the sixth dose of dofetilide
- members of your health care team reviewed your follow-up EKGs.

A 3-month prescription of dofetilide will be sent to the pharmacy of your choice.

- Call your pharmacy to make sure it has or can get the medicine in less than 1 week. This will be important for refills.

## Test and Lab Work You Need Before You Can Get Refills

To get refills, you will need to have the following done every 3 months:

- an EKG
- lab work to know your potassium level and how well your kidneys are working.

Before you leave the hospital, tell your electrophysiology provider which clinic you want the EKG and lab work done.

Have the EKG and labs scheduled on the same day. (This will save you a trip and make the refill process easier.) You will receive a phone call reminding you when you need to have the tests.

If your clinic is not part of Allina Health, ask your clinic to fax the results to Allina health Minneapolis Heart Institute — Minneapolis triage at 612-863-3887.

## How to Order Refills

- Request refills 1 to 2 weeks before you need them.
- Call your pharmacy to request a refill.
- Have your prescription refilled at the same pharmacy each time.