

TAKING DABIGATRAN

(Also known as Pradaxa®)



Your doctor prescribed dabigatran to keep blood clots from forming



Dabigatran along with other medicines will help prevent stroke



Dabigatran is an oral anticoagulant and it is often called a “blood thinner”



Dabigatran should be taken **two times a day** with or without food



A blood test to check your kidneys will be done **prior to starting dabigatran** and at least every year



A **common reason** to take this medicine is atrial fibrillation



Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heart rhythm that can cause blood clots to form which **can lead to stroke**

Most people who have been prescribed dabigatran to prevent Stroke **take it for the rest of their lives**



The Capsule must be **swallowed as a whole** - do not chew it or break it

TELL YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE:



Bleeding gums



Bruising too much



Nose bleeds

CALL YOUR DOCTOR OR GO TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM IF YOU DEVELOP:



Difficulty breathing or wheezing



Stomach pain/vomiting blood



Black or bloody stools



Severe headache with nausea

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



Take your dabigatran at the same time every day, 12 hours apart

- Do not stop taking your dabigatran without talking to your doctor
- Missing a dose can put you at risk for forming clots



If you miss a dose:

- If it is within 6 hours of usually taking it, take the missed dose
- If it is more than 6 hours skip the dose
- Do not take two doses at the same time
- Never take an extra dose to catch up



Make an appointment with your doctor before your prescription runs out

- Tell your doctor or dentist that you are on dabigatran if you need any surgery of procedure



Obtain a medical alert bracelet to indicate you are on dabigatran - in case of emergency, it would be important for your health care team to know



Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all the medicines you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs



Report any side effects to your doctor or pharmacist so that they can give you tips on how to minimize them



TALK TO YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OR ARE HAVING TROUBLE TAKING YOUR MEDICATIONS