

## **DABIGATRAN (also called PRADAXA®)**

### **What is Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?**

- Medicine used to lower risk of blood clots and stroke.
- Decreases your body's ability to make a clot.

### **What should I watch for when taking Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?**

Major things to watch for when taking Dabigatran are bleeding, clotting and allergy signs.

- Bleeding signs to watch for:
  - Bruises that happen for no reason or get bigger
  - Gum bleeding
  - Nose bleeds
  - Heavier than normal menstrual or vaginal bleeding
- Clotting signs to watch for:
  - Redness, swelling, tenderness, or warmth in any limbs
  - Increased pain in the area where you already have a clot
- Allergy signs to watch for:
  - Hives
  - Rash
  - Itching

**You/your child should go to the emergency room for any of the following signs:**

- Bleeding:
  - Bleeding you cannot stop or is severe
  - Pink or brown-colored urine
  - Red or black, tarry stools
  - Coughing up blood or blood clots
  - Vomiting blood or if your vomit looks like "coffee grounds"
  - Internal head bleeding most often from trauma or injury: severe, uncontrolled headache; nausea or vomiting; difficulty walking or talking; extreme tiredness; difficulty with waking up; high-pitched crying in a child on this medicine
- Clotting:
  - Signs of a deep vein clot:
    - Redness, swelling, tenderness, or warmth in any limbs
    - Increased pain in the area where you already have a clot
  - Signs of a blood clot in the lungs (pulmonary embolus):
    - Severe, sudden shortness of breath
    - Chest pain
    - Coughing up blood or blood clots

- Signs of a stroke:
  - Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or sudden severe headache
  - Numbness or weakness in any limb
  - Difficulty speaking or slurred speech
  - Drooping of one side of your face
- Severe allergic reaction:
  - Chest pain or tightness
  - Swelling of your face or tongue
  - Trouble breathing or wheezing
  - Feeling dizzy or faint

### **What else should I know about Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?**

- Taken by mouth usually twice a day – with or without food.
- Do not crush, chew or empty the capsules; must be swallowed whole.
- Keep medicine in original container and avoid moisture. Do not place into pill boxes.
- Does not require labs for monitoring.
- Store at room temperature in a dry place (avoid storing in the bathroom).
- Let your doctor know if you have any problems with your kidneys, previous stomach bleeding or ulcers.
- Tell your doctor all the medicines you/your child take (this includes over-the-counter medicines and herbal supplements) and any new ones that are prescribed.
- Do not take any ASA or NSAIDs unless you speak with your doctor first.
- Tell your doctor if you/your child need any surgeries or procedures, including major dental work.
- Sports participation must be discussed with the doctor as some may increase the risk of bleeding while taking Dabigatran.
- Tell your doctor if you become pregnant or plan to breastfeed while taking Dabigatran as it is not recommended during these times.
- If you miss a dose, take it right away when you remember and the next dose is more than 6 hours away, but do not double a dose. If the next dose is less than 6 hours away, skip that dose and continue your usual dosing schedule.
- If you suspect an overdose, go to the emergency room right away.
- Do not stop taking Dabigatran suddenly as this may increase the risk of having a stroke or blood clot.

Dabigatran dose you/your child will be taking at home: \_\_\_\_\_

You/your child's reason for needing Dabigatran: \_\_\_\_\_

Date to be seen in clinic for follow-up: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number to call with any questions or concerns: \_\_\_\_\_