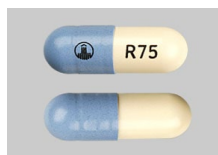


Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)

What is dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?

- Dabigatran is a blood thinner medication. This medication is also called by its brand name, Pradaxa®.
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) is used to reduce the risk of blood clots and stroke in people with an abnormal heart rhythm (called atrial fibrillation) or in people who have had a blood clot.
 - Blood clots can block a blood vessel, cutting off blood supply to the area.
 - Rarely, clots can break into pieces and travel in the bloodstream. Those pieces may get stuck in the heart (causing a heart attack), the lungs (causing a pulmonary embolus), or in the brain (causing a stroke).
- **If you were taking warfarin (Coumadin®) and you are starting to take dabigatran (Pradaxa®), do not continue taking warfarin.** Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) replaces warfarin.



Pradaxa® 75 mg capsule



Pradaxa® 150 mg capsule

How should I take dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?

- Take dabigatran (Pradaxa®) exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- You can take dabigatran (Pradaxa®) with or without food.

- Swallow the capsule whole. Do not break, chew, or empty the pellets from the capsule.
- If you miss a dose, follow these instructions:
 - If it is more than 6 hours until your next scheduled dose, take the dose as soon as you remember.
 - If it is less than 6 hours until your next schedule dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your normal dosing schedule.
 - Do not take a double dose of dabigatran to make up for missing a dose.
- Do not stop taking dabigatran (Pradaxa®) suddenly without telling your doctor. This can put you at risk of having a stroke or a blood clot.
- If you take too much dabigatran (Pradaxa®), call your doctor or the Anticoagulation Clinic. If you are experiencing any bleeding which you cannot get to stop, go to the nearest emergency room (ER).

How should I store dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?

- You may get your dabigatran (Pradaxa®) medication in a bottle or in individually separated doses (called blister packs). Keep the medication in its original container to protect it from moisture (getting wet). Do not store or place dabigatran capsules in any other container, like pill boxes or pill organizers.
- Store this medication at room temperature in a dry area. Avoid storing it in the bathroom.

What should I know about the risks of taking dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?

- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it reduces your blood's ability to clot. While you take dabigatran (Pradaxa®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) can cause bleeding which can be serious. You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take dabigatran (Pradaxa®) and:

- You are over 75 years old.
- You have kidney problems.
- You have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or recurs (goes away and then comes back).
- You have a stomach ulcer.
- You take other medications that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
 - Aspirin or products that contain aspirin
 - Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including ibuprofen and naproxen
 - Clopidogrel (Plavix®), prasugrel (Effient®), or ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
 - Any medication that contains heparin

What are the possible side effects of dabigatran (Pradaxa®)?

- Dabigatran (Pradaxa®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it reduces your blood's ability to clot. While you take dabigatran (Pradaxa®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- Common side effects include stomach pain, upset stomach, or heartburn.
- For some people, dabigatran (Pradaxa®) can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Get medical help immediately if you get any of these symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
 - Chest pain or chest tightness
 - Swelling of your face or tongue
 - Trouble breathing, or wheezing
 - Feeling dizzy or faint

When should I call my doctor or the Anticoagulation Clinic?

Call your doctor, or call us, if:

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Dabigatran (Pradaxa®)

- You start or stop any medications, including over-the-counter medications or herbal supplements. These may affect the way dabigatran (Pradaxa®) works.
- You are having a surgery or a procedure, as you may need to stop taking dabigatran (Pradaxa®) for a short period of time before your procedure. Do not stop taking dabigatran (Pradaxa®) without talking with your doctor first.
- You need a medication refill. Try to tell your doctor before you are out of dabigatran (Pradaxa®) so you do not run out.
- You're unable to pay for dabigatran (Pradaxa®), or you're concerned about not being able to cover the cost.
- You have any unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - Unusual bleeding from the gums
 - Nose bleeds that happen often
 - Menstrual (period) or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
 - Blood in your urine (pee that is red or the color of coffee or cola)
 - Bruises that happen without a known cause, or bruises that get larger

When should I get emergency help?

Call 911 immediately if you have any of the following serious conditions:

- You have any signs or symptoms of serious bleeding:
 - Severe bleeding, or bleeding you can't control
 - Red or black stools (poop that looks like tar)
 - Coughing up blood or blood clots
 - Vomiting up blood, or if your vomit looks like coffee grounds
 - Uncontrolled bleeding from your nose or gums
 - Cuts that will not stop bleeding
- You have any signs or symptoms of a stroke:

- Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or a sudden severe headache
- Numbness or weakness in any arm or leg
- Trouble speaking, or slurred speech
- Drooping on one side of your face
- You have signs or symptoms of blood clots:
 - Sudden severe shortness of breath
 - Chest pain
 - Swelling, redness, heat or pain in any arm or leg

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