



Dabigatran Therapy



Do not take dabigatran if you are or think you are pregnant, or while breast feeding.

What is dabigatran?

Dabigatran is an anticoagulant (*often called a blood thinner*) used to treat or prevent blood clots:

- After hip or knee replacement surgery to prevent blood clots forming in your legs or in your lungs
- For prevention of strokes or serious blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation
- For the treatment of blood clots

Unlike warfarin, another anticoagulant, it does not require blood tests for monitoring.

Find out more at:
www.ThrombosisBC.ca



How do I take dabigatran?

- Dabigatran is taken twice a day about 12 hours apart.
- It should be taken at about same time each day, within an hour or so.
- It can be taken with or without food.
- Swallow the capsule whole: do not break open, chew, or crush it.
- If you forget a dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible.

How should I store dabigatran?

- Keep the capsules in its original packaging (*blister pack or bottle*).
- Once bottles are open, throw away the leftover capsules after 60 days and keep lid tightly closed.

What should I tell my doctor before I start taking dabigatran?

- You have an increased risk of bleeding or history of bleeding.
- You have liver or kidney problems.
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- You are breast feeding or plan to breast feed during treatment.
- You are going to have **any** surgery, including dental surgery.
- You are taking any other prescription, over-the-counter medication or herbal product.

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What are the side effects of dabigatran?

- The most frequent side effect is easy bruising and bleeding that takes longer to stop.
- About one in ten people will get stomach discomfort, heartburn, or nausea. If these don't improve after 1-2 weeks, talk to your doctor.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms:
 - Allergic reactions (*rash, swelling, itchiness*)
 - Blood in urine, stool and/or spit
 - Black tar-like stools
 - Bleeding, bruising, swelling or fluid leaking at your wound site after operation
 - Excessive bleeding (*including bleeding from your nose and gums*)
 - Prolonged or excessive menstrual period or vaginal bleeding
- For any other unexpected side effects, talk to your doctor.

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How long do I have to take dabigatran?

- This depends on the reason for taking dabigatran.
- Do not stop taking dabigatran without consulting your doctor.
- Continue to take dabigatran as prescribed by your doctor even if you feel well.
- Dabigatran should be discontinued for a short time before and after any surgical procedure. Your doctor will inform you when to stop and restart taking dabigatran again after your procedure.



Could any of my medications interact with dabigatran?

- Dabigatran might not be right for you if you are also taking any one of these:
 - St. John's wort
 - Antacids
 - Anti-platelet agents (*eg. aspirin, clopidogrel*)
 - Anti-inflammatory drugs (*eg. NSAIDs, naproxen*)
 - Some heart rhythm drugs (*eg. dronedarone*)
 - Some chemotherapy or cancer treatment drugs (*eg. doxorubicin, TKIs*)
 - Some drugs to prevent seizures (*eg. carbamazepine*)
 - Some antibiotics (*eg. clarithromycin*)
 - Some drugs to treat fungal infections (*eg. ketoconazole*)
 - Some anti-organ rejection drugs (*eg. cyclosporine*)
 - Some drugs to treat HIV/AIDS (*eg. ritonavir*)
 - Some other prescription medications
- Be sure to inform your doctor of all the medications and herbal products you are taking.
- Before starting any new medications or over the counter products, talk with your doctor or pharmacist.



What do I do in case of emergency/overdose?

- Contact your doctor immediately if you have taken more than the prescribed dose of dabigatran.
- In case of overdose, immediately call a doctor, hospital emergency department or local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 even if no symptoms are observed.

