

Dabigatran

(Also known as Pradaxa)

You have been given dabigatran to lower your risk of having a stroke. Dabigatran is used to prevent and treat blood clots, including those caused by atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat).



Take dabigatran with food and water



Take ONE capsule in the morning, and ONE capsule in the evening.



Taking your capsule with food helps to prevent indigestion or heartburn.



Keep capsules in the original foil package to protect from moisture. Only take them out when you are ready to use them.

Missing doses of dabigatran increases your risk of getting a blood clot

- If you have missed a dose and the next dose is less than 6 hours away, skip the missed dose.
- If you have missed a dose and there are more than 6 hours until the next dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember.
- DO NOT take two doses at the same time to make up for a missed dose.

Dabigatran is a long-term medicine

- Get your prescription before you run out of capsules.
- Make sure you have enough capsules for weekends and holidays.
- Don't stop taking dabigatran unless your doctor tells you to. Stopping too early can lead to blood clots and stroke.

Tell your healthcare provider

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if it is safe to take any new medicines or herbal supplements. Some medicines can affect dabigatran.

Tell all healthcare providers that you are taking dabigatran (eg, your doctor, dentist, pharmacist or podiatrist). You may need to stop dabigatran before surgery, dental care and some tests.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant, are trying for a baby or start breastfeeding.

Dabigatran increases your risk of bleeding

Avoid contact sports, tattoos, piercings and deep massage.

Contact your doctor or Healthline 0800 611 116 urgently if you notice these side effects:

- red or brown pee, or black poo
- unusual bruising
- nosebleeds
- coughing up blood or brown spots
- bad headaches
- bleeding a lot after a cut or fall.

For more information about dabigatran, visit healthnavigator.org.nz/dabigatran