

Pradaxa[®] [dabigatran etexilate] patient starter card

Why have I been prescribed Pradaxa[®]?

You have been prescribed Pradaxa[®] as part of the management of your atrial fibrillation [AF].

- AF increases your risk of having a stroke due to a blood clot
- Pradaxa[®] is an anticoagulant which means it stops your blood from forming clots so easily
- You are taking Pradaxa[®] to lower your risk of stroke due to blood clot formation

How to take Pradaxa[®]

- Pradaxa[®] should be swallowed whole with a glass of water. Taking it with food may help reduce the possibility of indigestion
- Take one Pradaxa[®] capsule in the morning and one in the evening
 - Take Pradaxa[®] at roughly the same time each day [for example, 8am and 8pm]
- Never bite into a Pradaxa[®] capsule; always swallow whole with water
- The Pradaxa[®] blister case can help you keep track of how many capsules you have taken and still need to take each week



If you miss a dose of Pradaxa[®]

- If it's **more than 6 hours** until your next Pradaxa[®] capsule is due, TAKE the Pradaxa[®] capsule you missed
- If your next Pradaxa[®] capsule is due in **less than 6 hours** time, do NOT take the dose you missed. Wait until your next dose is due and take your Pradaxa[®] capsule
- Then carry on as usual

**NEVER TAKE A DOUBLE DOSE
TO MAKE UP FOR A MISSED DOSE**

If you take an extra dose of Pradaxa®

- Contact your doctor or anticoagulation clinic as soon as possible

When should I seek medical help?

Pradaxa® reduces the ability of your blood to clot, so it can increase your risk of bleeding. If you experience any of the following or notice any bleeding you are concerned about, please seek urgent medical attention:

- Vomit blood
- See blood in your urine
- Have blood in your stools (poo) [they may look black or red]
- Have a major nosebleed lasting for more than 10 minutes, despite applying pressure
- Excessive tiredness, weakness, dizziness or unexplained swelling
- A fall or injury [especially if you hit your head]
- Any excessive bleeding

What can be done to stop the effect of Pradaxa® in an emergency?

In case of an emergency, the blood thinning effect of Pradaxa® can be immediately switched off by a medicine called Praxbind® (idarucizumab).

Praxbind® can be given to you in hospital through your vein and works by quickly trapping the Pradaxa® in your blood and deactivating it.

Praxbind® can be given by a doctor in emergency situations, for example, if you are taking Pradaxa® and need an urgent operation for any reason, or if you have serious bleeding that will not stop.

Further information is available in your Patient Alert Card, included in your box of medication. Please carry this card with you at all times. Ask your doctor or nurse for a Pradaxa® patient information booklet.

If you get any side effects after taking Pradaxa® or being given Praxbind®, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard (UK) or HPRA Pharmacovigilance Website at www.hpra.ie (Ireland). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of these medicines.

If you have any feedback on this piece of information please contact:
medinfo.bra@boehringer-ingelheim.com