

DABIGATRAN

PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE

What does Dabigatran do?

- Dabigatran is effective at preventing blood clots (“thins the blood”)

How do I take Dabigatran?

- Take with food to reduce the risk of indigestion. Make sure tablets are taken whole (not crushed or chewed)
- It is important you always remember to take your dose or it will not work well
- Do not take any more than your doctor has asked you too
- Consider a Medi Alert if you are on Dabigatran for more than 6 months

How do I store Dabigatran?

- **Dabigatran must be kept in its original container.** Do not re-package tablets into daily or weekly pill boxes
- Capsules lose activity if kept in opened bottle for more than 30 days. A new bottle is required each month
- Do not keep in another container or exposed to moisture
- Store out of reach of children at all times

What happens if I experience side effects?

There are some known side effects of this medication

- If you develop serious side effects such as **shortness of breath, wheezing or facial swelling. Call an ambulance**
- Let your doctor or pharmacist know immediately if you:
 - **Notice any signs of bruising or bleeding.**
 - Experience any trauma (e.g. A fall) that causes bleeding or bruising
 - **If bleeding STOP the Dabigatran and seek emergency care**
- Ring your General Practice if you experience more minor side effects such as indigestion, rashes, headaches or feel unwell related to taking the medication
- If unwell, particularly with vomiting, diarrhoea or high temperatures talk to your nurse or doctor as soon as possible

What happens if I require surgery?

- If requiring surgery (including dental) ask advice about when to stop the Dabigatran and when it should be restarted

What if I am on other medications?

- Tell your General Practice Team and pharmacist about **ALL** the medicines you are taking (including herbal remedies and vitamins)
- If you are taking other ‘blood thinning’ medicines such as aspirin, clopidogrel or dipyridamole your risk of bleeding is increased. Check with your General Practice Team if you need to be on both medications

Pregnancy and Dabigatran?

- Do not take Dabigatran if you are pregnant or breastfeeding
- Discuss other options with your General Practice Team

Things you should avoid whilst taking Dabigatran

- Avoid new tattoos and piercings or having body massages while taking Dabigatran - they may cause bruising and bleeding