

Information about Pradaxa® for people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation

What is Pradaxa?

Pradaxa is an “anticoagulant”, or anti-clotting medicine that helps reduce the risk of stroke in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf).

Why have I been prescribed Pradaxa?

Your doctor has diagnosed you with NVAf, which means your heart is beating irregularly and your blood is not pumping as efficiently as it should. This can lead to blood “pooling” in the heart and potentially forming a clot.

These clots can circulate with your blood to other parts of your body, including your brain. If the clot gets stuck in a blood vessel in your brain, it can cut off the blood supply, causing a stroke.

Without treatment, the risk of stroke in people with atrial fibrillation is up to seven times higher than in someone who doesn't have atrial fibrillation. Pradaxa is used to prevent blood clots from forming and helps to reduce the risk of stroke.

Practical advice for patients taking Pradaxa



How should I take Pradaxa?

Take ONE capsule twice a day (morning and evening), with or without food. Swallow the capsule whole with a glass of water, do not chew or open the capsule.



What happens if I miss a dose?

You may still take the missed dose up to 6 hours before your next dose is due. After this time, DO NOT take the missed dose. Simply take your next dose when due. **Never** take a double dose.



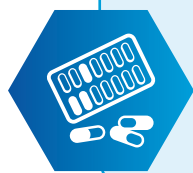
Are there any side effects associated with taking Pradaxa?

The main side effect of any anticoagulant, including Pradaxa, is bleeding. You can help keep yourself well by watching out for signs of bleeding (see over). If detected early, you can help to prevent small problems from becoming serious.



What if I'm taking other medications?

Some medicines may interfere with Pradaxa. Always tell your doctor or pharmacist about other medications you are taking (including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop).



How should I store Pradaxa?

Pradaxa should be stored in a cool, dry place below 30°C. Keep the capsules in the original packaging until the dose is due.



It is important that you do not stop taking Pradaxa without talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

When should you contact your doctor?

It is important that healthcare professionals (e.g. doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and paramedics) know that you're taking Pradaxa. It may influence advice or treatment they give you.



If you are going to have surgery, including any dental work, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking Pradaxa.



If you are planning to travel, inform your doctor to make sure you have enough medication to last the entire trip.



Tell your doctor if you fall or injure yourself during treatment, especially if you hit your head.



Tell your doctor urgently or go to your nearest hospital emergency department if you notice any of the following signs of bleeding:

- Severe bruising that gets worse;
- Any bleeding that takes a long time to stop;
- Menstrual bleeding that is much heavier than usual, or unexplained vaginal bleeding;
- Dark red or brown urine, or red, dark brown or black bowel motions;
- Coughing up blood;
- Bloody or dark-stained vomit;
- Severe headache or dizziness;
- Weakness or lethargy;
- Unusual pain, swelling or discomfort; or
- Any difficulty breathing.



In emergency situations it is vital to tell paramedics and hospital staff you're taking Pradaxa. A specific reversal agent is available that can be used to stop the anticoagulant effects of Pradaxa in emergencies or prior to urgent surgery.

For more information, please refer to the Consumer Medicine Information booklet found within your Pradaxa pack.