

Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Health System (FMOLHS)

Pharmacy Anticoagulation Stewardship

Dabigatran Etexilate (Pradaxa) Patient Education Handout

Indication for Use

Dabigatran is a blood thinner medication that helps reduce formation of blood clots inside your blood vessels.

What is it used for

- To prevent stroke
- To prevent blood clots caused by an irregular heart beat
- To prevent or treat blood clots in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT)
- To prevent blood clots after hip or knee replacement surgery
- To prevent or treat blood clots in the artery that supplies blood to the lungs (pulmonary embolism or PE)

You will be discharged on this medication with one of the following dosing schedules

Dabigatran 220 mg every 24 hours

Dabigatran 110 mg every 12 hours

Dabigatran 75 mg every 12 hours

Dabigatran 150 mg every 12 hours

Administration

Take each dose of your medication at the same time of the day each day. Take with a full glass of water. To help you remember to take your medication daily, you can do any of the following

- Put a reminder note by the refrigerator, phone or medicine cabinet. You can use different colors to make it stand out
- Keep a chart or calendar of when you take your medicine. You can use colored pens to keep track of medicines
- Use a pillbox, cellphone or computer to keep track of pills
- Ask for help from family and friends.
- Use a calendar to remember to order refills for your medication.
- You can place your order for refill 3 to 4 days before your medicine run out.

What to do if a dose is missed

If you miss a dose, do the following

- Take the missed dose as soon as possible on the same day
- If the time you remember to take the missed dose is close (within 6 hours) to when you have to take the next scheduled dose for a particular medication; take the scheduled dose and skip the make-up dose
- Do not take a double dose of any missed medication on the same day

- Do not take a double up of your dose the next day to make up for the missed dose

Importance of Adherence

It is very important that you take your medication every day at the same scheduled time. This will help you get the most benefit from the medications and will also greatly reduced the need for you to be frequently admitted into the hospital. Taking your medication every day will improve your quality of life by allowing you to participate more in your routine daily activities. Not taking your medication can increase your risk of having a blood clot.

Do not stop taking your medication without talking to your doctor.

Food/Drug interactions

- Tell your doctors and dentist about all the medications you are taking, including over the counter medicine, herbal and dietary supplements

Possible side effects

- Possible bleeding
- Bleeding from cuts may last longer
- Bruising may happen more easily
- Skin rash or allergic reaction
- Tell your doctor about any side effect that bother you

Signs to report

- Bleeding from the nose, gums or ears
- Coughing up blood
- Bleeding from cuts that won't stop after applying pressure for 10 minutes
- Menstrual bleeding that is heavier or longer than normal
- Vomiting blood (may look like coffee grounds)
- Bruises that appear without reason or become swollen or purplish spots on your skin
- Unusual headache or hemorrhoidal bleeding
- Bowel movement that looks bright red, black or tarry
- Stomach or abdominal pain that does not go away
- Reddish or brown colored urine

If you notice any of these signs, contact your doctor immediately.

This Educational handout Review and Revision information

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