

# Pradaxa (dabigatran) basics

**Prevents and treats blood clots.** Pradaxa (dabigatran) is an effective oral medicine for preventing and treating blood clots, but it can increase the risk of bleeding especially in older people and those with kidney problems.

## What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Pradaxa (dabigatran) can increase your risk of bleeding so tell your doctor right away if you experience signs of bleeding such as unusual bruises, bloody stools, pink-colored urine, or bloody vomit.
- Don't stop taking Pradaxa (dabigatran) suddenly without first talking to your doctor because that might increase your chances of getting a life-threatening blood clot.
- Don't chew, break or open the capsules. Swallow the medicine whole with a full glass of water.
- The medicine must be kept in its original container and the cap should always be tightly closed when not in use.
- Let your doctor or dentist know you are taking Pradaxa (dabigatran) before you have any types of surgery.

## Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Blood clots

Don't stop taking Pradaxa (dabigatran) suddenly since that can increase your risk for getting life-threatening blood clots or a stroke. Talk to your doctor on any concerns about the medicine.

### Blood clots in the spine

If you are taking Pradaxa (dabigatran) and have had a spinal tap or anesthetic medicine injected into the areas around your spine, you may be at increased risk of getting a blood clot there, which in some cases could potentially cause permanent paralysis. Call your doctor right away if you suddenly feel back pain, numbness or tingling in the legs, muscle weakness, or difficulties with bowel movements or urination.

### Increased risk of bleeding

You can experience bleeding or bruising more easily while taking Pradaxa (dabigatran). Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these symptoms: unusual bruises, pink or brown-colored urine, bright red or dark stools, coughing up blood, or throwing up blood that looks like coffee grounds. Your doctor might ask you to stop using Pradaxa (dabigatran), especially if the bleeding is life-threatening. In emergency situations, there is an antidote available that can reverse the effects of the medicine.