

# DABIGATRAN

## ▶ PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE

REMEMBER: this medicine is for you. Never give it to others even if their signs and symptoms are the same as yours.

## WHY HAVE WE GIVEN YOU THIS GUIDE?

This information is for you to use when taking dabigatran. It is important that you take your medication safely. Dabigatran may cause **some serious side effects**. Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

- ▶ **Dabigatran is usually safe**
  - Dabigatran is effective at preventing blood clots
  - It is important you always remember to take your dose or it will not work as well
- ▶ **Dabigatran can also be harmful**
  - Extra care is needed when taking dabigatran because it can cause bleeding
  - Avoid new tattoos and piercings or having body massages while taking this medicine; these things may cause bruising and bleeding
  - All medicines carry some risks but you might not experience any problems at all
  - Always store dabigatran out of reach of children
- ▶ **PREGNANCY and dabigatran**
  - Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or breastfeeding
  - Discuss other options with your doctor

## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO TAKE DABIGATRAN SAFELY

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  - Make sure your doctor knows if you are planning to have surgery (including dental)
  - Let your doctor know if you have ever had a stomach ulcer
  - If you are concerned about any side effects you experience e.g. indigestion, discuss with your doctor or pharmacist
  - **Dabigatran must be kept in its original container**; do not re-package tablets into daily or weekly pill boxes
- ▶ **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
- ▶ **Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of the medicines you are taking**
  - Dabigatran can be harmful when taken with **some** other medicines, including herbal remedies and vitamins
  - Dabigatran is more likely to cause bleeding if you are taking other 'blood thinning' medicines (e.g. aspirin, clopidogrel, recent warfarin use)
- ▶ **Do not take any more than your doctor has asked you to**
  - High doses can be harmful, especially in older adults

This information is a guide only and is not a replacement for the advice and care of your doctor, pharmacist (chemist) or nurse.