

Digoxin

Medication Information Leaflet

What is this medication for?

Digoxin is used primarily to slow down rapid heart rate. It is also used in heart failure to improve heart function by strengthening the force of your heartbeat.

How should I take/use this medication?

- Do not stop taking your medication without checking with your healthcare professional.
- You may take this medication with or without food.

What should I do if I forget to take/use this medication?

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Then take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take two doses to make up for the missed dose.

What precautions should I take?

Inform your healthcare professional if:

- You are allergic to this medication or any of the other ingredients of this medication.
- You are pregnant or planning to become pregnant.
- You are breastfeeding.
- You are taking any other medications, including supplements, traditional medications and herbal remedies.

What are some common side-effects of this medication?

- Diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting
- Headache, dizziness
- Problems with your vision – sudden change (blurring) in eyesight, yellow vision
 - Do not drive or operate tools or heavy machinery if your vision is affected. Your doctor may also recommend an eyesight test to monitor for such side-effects.

While these side-effects are rare, it is important to consult your healthcare professional if these side-effects become severe. These may indicate that the dose of digoxin may be too high for you.

What are some rare but serious side-effects that I need to seek medical advice immediately?

It is very important that you are on regular follow-up with your doctor to monitor for any possible side-effects. Inform your healthcare professional if you have any of the following side-effects.

Digoxin may worsen existing abnormal heart rhythm, or cause new irregular heartbeats. Symptoms of abnormal heart rhythm include one or more of the following:

- Irregular heartbeat e.g. slowed heartbeat or palpitations (feels like your heart is racing, pounding, skipping a beat)
- Severe dizziness or fainting spells

The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following:

- Swollen face/eyes/lips/tongue
- Difficulty in breathing
- Itchy skin rashes over your whole body

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medication and see your healthcare professional immediately.

What food or medication should I avoid when I take this medication?

There are several medications that may affect the level of digoxin in your body. If you intend to take any over-the-counter medications, supplements, herbal remedies or traditional medicine, consult your healthcare professional first to confirm that it is safe to take with digoxin.

How should I store this medication?

Store in a cool and dry place, away from direct sunlight. Keep this medication away from children.

How should I throw away this medication safely?

Pack this medication into a black trash bag and seal it tightly before throwing into the rubbish chute or bin.

Disclaimers

If you take more than the recommended dose, please seek medical advice immediately. The information provided on this page does not replace information from your healthcare professional. Please consult your healthcare professional for more information.

This article is jointly developed by members of the National Medication Information workgroup. The workgroup consists of cluster partners (National Healthcare Group, National University Health System and SingHealth), community pharmacies (Guardian, Unity and Watsons) and Pharmaceutical Society of Singapore. The content does not reflect drug availability and supply information in pharmacies and healthcare institutions. You are advised to check with the respective institutions for such information.

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