

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET



MEDICINE TO TREAT: CARDIAC DISEASES

Digoxin

This medicine has been proven to be safe and effective, but it can cause serious injury if a mistake happens while taking it. This means that it is very important for you to know about this medicine and take it exactly as directed.

1. What is the medicine used for?

Digoxin is used to control fast heartbeat. It is also used in heart failure to help the heart work better.

2. How should I take the medicine?

- Take this medication before or after meals with water.
- Follow the instructions on the medicine label. Take your doses at the same time each day.
- Do not stop taking your medicines without checking with your doctors.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double your dose or use extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

3. What are the possible side effects of the medicine?

Digoxin can make your existing irregular heartbeats worse. It can also cause new irregular heartbeats.

Common side effects that you may experience include:

- diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting
- headache, dizziness
- problems with your vision (for example, sudden change in eyesight)

Inform your doctor as soon as you can if you notice any of these symptoms.

4. How do I know if I am allergic to this medicine?

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

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

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medicine immediately and see your doctor.

5. What precautions should I follow when taking the medicine?

There are several medicines that affect the level of digoxin in your body. Please see your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal products. Please make sure that the doctor who treats you knows that you are on digoxin.

There is not enough information on the use of digoxin in pregnant women. Therefore, the medicine should only be used during pregnancy when it is clearly needed.

Digoxin may be present in breast milk. As it can cause serious side effects in babies who are being breast-fed, you should discuss with your doctor whether to stop breast-feeding or to stop taking the medicine.

6. How should I store the medicine?

- Keep your medicines in the original container or packaging, tightly closed or sealed in a cool and dry place, away from direct sunlight.
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children.
- Throw away all expired medicines.

This leaflet answers some common questions about this medicine. It does not contain all the available information. It also does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.