

#### Package leaflet: Information for the patient

## Pradaxa<sup>®</sup> 110mg hard capsules (dabigatran etexilate)

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

The name of your medicine is Pradaxa 110mg hard capsules but will be referred to as Pradaxa throughout this leaflet.

#### What is in this leaflet

1. What Pradaxa is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Pradaxa
3. How to take Pradaxa
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Pradaxa
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What Pradaxa is and what it is used for

Pradaxa contains the active substance dabigatran etexilate and belongs to a group of medicines called anticoagulants. It works by blocking a substance in the body which is involved in blood clot formation.

Pradaxa is used in adults to:

- prevent the formation of blood clots in the veins after knee or hip replacement surgery.
- prevent blood clots in the brain (stroke) and other blood vessels in the body if you have a form of irregular heart rhythm called nonvalvular atrial fibrillation and at least one additional risk factor.
- treat blood clots in the veins of your legs and lungs and to prevent blood clots from re-occurring in the vein of your legs and lungs.

Pradaxa is used in children to:

- treat blood clots and to prevent blood clots from reoccurring.

#### 2. What you need to know before you take Pradaxa

##### Do not take Pradaxa

- if you are allergic to dabigatran etexilate or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- if you have severely reduced kidney function.
- if you are currently bleeding.
- if you have a disease in an organ of the body that increases the risk of serious bleeding (e.g. stomach ulcer, injury or bleeding in the brain, recent surgery of the brain or eyes).
- if you have an increased tendency to bleed. This may be inborn, of unknown cause or due to other medicines.
- if you are taking medicines to prevent blood clotting (e.g. warfarin, rivaroxaban, apixaban or heparin), except when changing anticoagulant treatment, while having a venous or arterial line and you get heparin through this line to keep it open or while your heart beat is being restored to normal by a procedure called catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation.
- if you have a severely reduced liver function or liver disease which could possibly cause death.
- if you are taking oral ketoconazole or itraconazole, medicines to treat fungal infections.
- if you are taking oral cyclosporine, a medicine to prevent organ rejection after transplantation.
- if you are taking dronedarone, a medicine used to treat abnormal heart beat.
- if you are taking a combination product of glecaprevir and pibrentasvir, an antiviral medicine used to treat hepatitis C.
- if you have received an artificial heart valve which requires permanent blood thinning.

##### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before taking Pradaxa. You may also need to talk to your doctor during treatment with this medicine if you experience symptoms or if you have to undergo surgery.

**Tell your doctor** if you have or have had any medical conditions or illnesses, in particular any of those included in the following list:

- if you have an increased bleeding risk, such as:
  - if you have been recently bleeding.
  - if you have had a surgical tissue removal (biopsy) in the past month.

- if you have had a serious injury (e.g. a bone fracture, head injury or any injury requiring surgical treatment).
- if you are suffering from an inflammation of the gullet or stomach.
- if you have problems with reflux of gastric juice into the gullet.
- if you are receiving medicines which could increase the risk of bleeding. See 'Other medicines and Pradaxa' below.
- if you are taking anti-inflammatory medicines such as diclofenac, ibuprofen, piroxicam.
- if you are suffering from an infection of the heart (bacterial endocarditis).
- if you know you have decreased kidney function, or you are suffering from dehydration (symptoms include feeling thirsty and passing reduced amounts of dark-coloured (concentrated)/foaming urine).
  - if you are older than 75 years.
  - if you are an adult patient and weigh 50kg or less.
  - only if used for children: if the child has an infection around or within the brain.
- if you have had a heart attack or if you have been diagnosed with conditions that increase the risk to develop a heart attack.
- if you have a liver disease that is associated with changes in the blood tests. The use of this medicine is not recommended in this case.

##### Take special care with Pradaxa

- if you need to have an operation:  
In this case Pradaxa will need to be stopped temporarily due to an increased bleeding risk during and shortly after an operation. It is very important to take Pradaxa before and after the operation exactly at the times you have been told by your doctor.
- if an operation involves a catheter or injection into your spinal column (e.g. for epidural or spinal anaesthesia or pain reduction):
  - it is very important to take Pradaxa before and after the operation exactly at the times you have been told by your doctor.
  - tell your doctor immediately if you get numbness or weakness of your legs or problems with your bowel or bladder after the end of anaesthesia, because urgent care is necessary.
- if you fall or injure yourself during treatment, especially if you hit your head. Please seek urgent medical attention. You may need to be checked by a doctor, as you may be at increased risk of bleeding.
- if you know that you have a disease called antiphospholipid syndrome (a disorder of the immune system that causes an increased risk of blood clots), tell your doctor who will decide if the treatment may need to be changed.

##### Other medicines and Pradaxa

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. **In particular you should tell your doctor before taking Pradaxa, if you are taking one of the medicines listed below:**

- Medicines to reduce blood clotting (e.g. warfarin, phenprocoumon, acenocoumarol, heparin, clopidogrel, prasugrel, ticagrelor, rivaroxaban, acetylsalicylic acid)
- Medicines to treat fungal infections (e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole), unless they are only applied to the skin
- Medicines to treat abnormal heart beats (e.g. amiodarone, dronedarone, quinidine, verapamil).  
If you are taking amiodarone, quinidine or verapamil containing medicines, your doctor may tell you to use a reduced dose of Pradaxa depending on the condition for which it is prescribed to you. See section 3.
- Medicines to prevent organ rejection after transplantation (e.g. tacrolimus, cyclosporine)
- A combination product of glecaprevir and pibrentasvir (an antiviral medicine used to treat hepatitis C)
- Anti-inflammatory and pain reliever medicines (e.g. acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, diclofenac)
- St. John's wort, a herbal medicine for depression
- Antidepressant medicines called selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors or serotonin-norepinephrine re-uptake inhibitors
- Rifampicin or clarithromycin (two antibiotics)
- Anti-viral medicines for AIDS (e.g. ritonavir)
- Certain medicines for treatment of epilepsy (e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin)

##### Pregnancy and breast-feeding

The effects of pradaxa on pregnancy and the unborn child are not known. You should not take this medicine if you are pregnant unless your doctor advises you that it is safe to do so. If you are a woman of child-bearing age, you should avoid becoming pregnant while you are taking Pradaxa.

You should not breast-feed while you are taking Pradaxa.

##### Driving and using machines

Pradaxa has no known effects on the ability to drive or use machines.

#### 3. How to take Pradaxa

Pradaxa capsules can be used in adults and children aged 8 years or older who are able to swallow the capsules whole. Pradaxa coated granules are available for the treatment of children below 12 years as soon as they are able to swallow soft food.

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor if you are not sure.

##### Take Pradaxa as recommended for the following conditions:

###### Prevention of blood clot formation after knee or hip replacement surgery

The recommended dose is **220mg once a day** (taken as 2 capsules of 110mg).

If your **kidney function is decreased** by more than half or if you are **75 years of age or older**, the recommended dose is **150mg once a day** (taken as 2 capsules of 75mg).

If you are taking **amiodarone, quinidine or verapamil** containing medicines the recommended dose is **150mg once a day** (taken as 2 capsules of 75mg).

If you are taking **verapamil containing medicines and your kidney function is decreased** by more than half, you should be treated with a reduced dose of **75mg** Pradaxa because your bleeding risk may be increased.

For both surgery types, treatment should not be started if there is bleeding from the site of operation. If the treatment cannot be started until the day after surgery, dosing should be started with 2 capsules once a day.

###### After knee replacement surgery

You should start treatment with Pradaxa within 1-4 hours after surgery finishes, taking a single capsule. Thereafter two capsules once a day should be taken for a total of 10 days.

###### After hip replacement surgery

You should start treatment with Pradaxa within 1-4 hours after surgery finishes, taking a single capsule. Thereafter two capsules once a day should be taken for a total of 28-35 days.

Prevention of brain or body vessel obstruction by blood clot formation developing after abnormal heart beats and Treatment of blood clots in the veins of your legs and lungs including prevention of blood clots from re-occurring in the vein of your legs and lungs

The recommended dose is 300mg taken as **one 150mg capsule twice a day**.

If you are **80 years or older**, the recommended dose is 220mg taken as **one 110mg capsule twice a day**.

If you are taking **verapamil containing medicines**, you should be treated with a reduced Pradaxa dose of 220mg taken as **one 110mg capsule twice a day**, because your bleeding risk may be increased.

If you have a **potentially higher risk for bleeding**, your doctor may decide to prescribe a dose of 220mg taken as **one 110mg capsule twice a day**.

You can continue to take this medicine if your heart beat needs to be restored to normal by a procedure called cardioversion. Take Pradaxa as your physician has told you.

If a medical device (stent) has been deployed in a blood vessel to keep it open in a procedure called percutaneous coronary intervention with stenting, you can be treated with Pradaxa after your physician has decided that normal control of blood coagulation is achieved. Take Pradaxa as your physician has told you.

Treatment of blood clots and prevention of blood clots from reoccurring in children

**Pradaxa should be taken twice daily**, one dose in the morning and one dose in the evening, at approximately the same time every day. The dosing interval should be as close to 12 hours as possible.

The recommended dose depends on weight and age. Your doctor will determine the correct dose. Your doctor may adjust the dose as treatment progresses. Keep using all other medicines, unless your doctor tells you to stop using any.

Table 1 shows single and total daily Pradaxa doses in milligrams (mg). The doses depend on weight in kilograms (kg) and age in years of the patient.

Table 1: Dosing table for Pradaxa capsules

Weight/age combinations		Single dose in mg	Total daily dose in mg
Weight in kg	Age in years		
11 to less than 13kg	8 to less than 9 years	75	150
13 to less than 16kg	8 to less than 11 years	110	220
16 to less than 21kg	8 to less than 14 years	110	220
21 to less than 26kg	8 to less than 16 years	150	300
26 to less than 31kg	8 to less than 18 years	150	300
31 to less than 41kg	8 to less than 18 years	185	370
41 to less than 51kg	8 to less than 18 years	220	440
51 to less than 61kg	8 to less than 18 years	260	520
61 to less than 71kg	8 to less than 18 years	300	600
71 to less than 81kg	8 to less than 18 years	300	600
81kg or greater	10 to less than 18 years	300	600

Single doses requiring combinations of more than one capsule:

300mg: two 150mg capsules or four 75mg capsules

260mg: one 110mg plus one 150mg capsule or one 110mg plus two 75mg capsules

220mg: as two 110mg capsules

185mg: as one 75mg plus one 110mg capsule

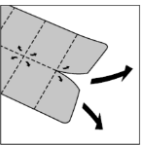
150mg: as one 150mg capsule or two 75mg capsules


##### How to take Pradaxa

Pradaxa can be taken with or without food. The capsule should be swallowed whole with a glass of water, to ensure delivery to the stomach. Do not break, chew, or empty the pellets from the capsule since this may increase the risk of bleeding.

##### Instructions for opening the blisters

The following pictogram illustrates how to take Pradaxa capsules out of the blister

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Tear off one individual blister from the blister card along the perforated line
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Peel off the backing foil and remove the capsule.

- Do not push the capsules through the blister foil.
- Do not peel off the blister foil until a capsule is required.

##### Instructions for the bottle

- Push and turn for opening.
- After removing the capsule, place the cap back on the bottle and tightly close the bottle right away after you take your dose.

##### Change of anticoagulant treatment

Without specific guidance from your doctor do not change your anticoagulant treatment.

##### If you take more Pradaxa than you should

Taking too much of this medicine increases the risk of bleeding. Contact your doctor immediately if you have taken too many capsules. Specific treatment options are available.

##### If you forget to take Pradaxa

Prevention of blood clot formation after knee or hip replacement surgery  
Continue with your remaining daily doses of Pradaxa at the same time of the next day.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

Use in adults: Prevention of brain or body vessel obstruction by blood clot formation developing after abnormal heart beats and treatment of blood clots in the veins of your legs and lungs including prevention of blood clots from re-occurring in the vein of your legs and lungs  
Use in children: Treatment of blood clots and prevention of blood clots from reoccurring

A forgotten dose can still be taken up to 6 hours prior to the next due dose.

A missed dose should be omitted if the remaining time is below 6 hours prior to the next due dose.

Do not double a dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

### If you stop taking Pradaxa

Take Pradaxa exactly as prescribed. Do not stop taking this medicine without talking to your doctor first, because the risk of developing a blood clot could be higher if you stop treatment too early. Contact your doctor if you experience indigestion after taking Pradaxa.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Pradaxa affects blood clotting, so most side effects are related to signs such as bruising or bleeding. Major or severe bleeding may occur, these constitute the most serious side effects and, regardless of location, may become disabling, life-threatening or even lead to death. In some cases these bleedings may not be obvious.

If you experience any bleeding event that does not stop by itself or if you experience signs of excessive bleeding (exceptional weakness, tiredness, paleness, dizziness, headache or unexplained swelling) consult your doctor immediately. Your doctor may decide to keep you under closer observation or change your medicine.

Tell your doctor immediately, if you experience a serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing or dizziness.

Possible side effects are listed below, grouped by how likely they are to happen.

#### Prevention of blood clot formation after knee or hip replacement surgery

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- A fall in the amount of haemoglobin in the blood (the substance in the red blood cells)
- Unusual laboratory test results on liver function

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Bleeding may happen from the nose, into the stomach or bowel, from penis/vagina or urinary tract (incl. blood in the urine that stains the urine pink or red), from piles, from the rectum, under the skin, into a joint, from or after an injury or after an operation
- Haematoma formation or bruising occurring after an operation
- Blood detected in the stools by a laboratory test
- A fall in the number of red cells in the blood
- A decrease in the proportion of blood cells
- Allergic reaction
- Vomiting
- Frequent loose or liquid bowel movements
- Feeling sick
- Wound secretion (liquid exuding from the surgical wound)
- Liver enzymes increased
- Yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, caused by liver or blood problems

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Bleeding
- Bleeding may happen in the brain, from a surgical incision, from the site of entry of an injection or from the site of entry of a catheter into a vein
- Blood-stained discharge from the site of entry of a catheter into a vein
- Coughing of blood or blood stained sputum
- A fall in the number of platelets in the blood
- A fall in the number of red cells in the blood after an operation
- Serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing or dizziness
- Serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face or throat
- Skin rash notable for dark red, raised, itchy bumps caused by an allergic reaction
- Sudden change of the skin which affects its colour and appearance
- Itching
- Ulcer in the stomach or bowel (incl. ulcer in the gullet)
- Inflammation of the gullet and stomach
- Reflux of gastric juice into the gullet
- Belly ache or stomach ache
- Indigestion
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Fluid exiting a wound

- Fluid exiting a wound after an operation

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Difficulty in breathing or wheezing
- Decreases in the number or even lack of white blood cells (which help to fight infections)
- Hair loss

#### Prevention of brain or body vessel obstruction by blood clot formation developing after abnormal heart beats

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Bleeding may happen from the nose, into the stomach or bowel, from penis/vagina or urinary tract (incl. blood in the urine that stains the urine pink or red), or under the skin
- A fall in the number of red cells in the blood
- Belly ache or stomach ache
- Indigestion
- Frequent loose or liquid bowel movements
- Feeling sick

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Bleeding
- Bleeding may happen from piles, from the rectum, or in the brain
- Haematoma formation
- Coughing of blood or blood stained sputum
- A fall in the number of platelets in the blood
- A fall in the amount of haemoglobin in the blood (the substance in the red blood cells)
- Allergic reaction
- Sudden change of the skin which affects its colour and appearance
- Itching
- Ulcer in the stomach or bowel (incl. ulcer in the gullet)
- Inflammation of the gullet and stomach
- Reflux of gastric juice into the gullet
- Vomiting
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Unusual laboratory test results on liver function

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Bleeding may happen into a joint, from a surgical incision, from an injury, from the site of entry of an injection or from the site of entry of a catheter into a vein
- Serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing or dizziness
- Serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face or throat
- Skin rash notable for dark red, raised, itchy bumps caused by an allergic reaction
- A decrease in the proportion of blood cells
- Liver enzymes increased
- Yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, caused by liver or blood problems

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Difficulty in breathing or wheezing
- Decreases in the number or even lack of white blood cells (which help to fight infections)
- Hair loss

In a clinical trial the rate of heart attacks with Pradaxa was numerically higher than with warfarin. The overall occurrence was low.

#### Treatment of blood clots in the veins of your legs and lungs including prevention of blood clots from re-occurring in the veins of your legs and/or lungs

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- Bleeding may happen from the nose, into the stomach or bowel, from the rectum, from penis/vagina or urinary tract (incl. blood in the urine that stains the urine pink or red), or under the skin
- Indigestion

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Bleeding
- Bleeding may happen into a joint or from an injury
- Bleeding may happen from piles
- A fall in the number of red cells in the blood
- Haematoma formation
- Coughing of blood or blood stained sputum
- Allergic reaction
- Sudden change of the skin which affects its colour and appearance
- Itching
- Ulcer in the stomach or bowel (incl. ulcer in the gullet)
- Inflammation of the gullet and stomach
- Reflux of gastric juice into the gullet
- Feeling sick
- Vomiting
- Belly ache or stomach ache
- Frequent loose or liquid bowel movements
- Unusual laboratory test results on liver function
- Liver enzymes increased

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- Bleeding may happen, from a surgical incision, or from the site of entry of an injection or from the site of entry of a catheter into a vein or from the brain
- A fall in the number of platelets in the blood
- Serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing or dizziness
- Serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face or throat
- Skin rash notable for dark red, raised, itchy bumps caused by an allergic reaction
- Difficulty in swallowing

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Difficulty in breathing or wheezing
- A fall in the amount of haemoglobin in the blood (the substance in the red blood cells)
- A decrease in the proportion of blood cells
- Decreases in the number or even lack of white blood cells (which help to fight infections)
- Yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, caused by liver or blood problems
- Hair loss

In the trial program the rate of heart attacks with Pradaxa was higher than with warfarin. The overall occurrence was low. No imbalance in the rate of heart attacks was observed in patients treated with dabigatran versus patients treated with placebo.

#### Treatment of blood clots and prevention of blood clots from reoccurring in children

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- A fall in the number of red cells in the blood
- A fall in the number of platelets in the blood
- Skin rash notable for dark red, raised, itchy bumps caused by an allergic reaction
- Sudden change of the skin which affects its colour and appearance
- Haematoma formation
- Nosebleed
- Reflux of gastric juice into the gullet
- Vomiting
- Feeling sick
- Frequent loose or liquid bowel movements
- Indigestion
- Hair loss
- Liver enzymes increased

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Decrease in the number of white blood cells (which help to fight infections)
- Bleeding may happen into the stomach or bowel, from the brain, from the rectum, from penis/vagina or urinary tract (incl. blood in the urine that stains the urine pink or red), or under the skin
- A fall in the amount of haemoglobin in the blood (the substance in the red blood cells)
- A decrease in the proportion of blood cells
- Itching
- Coughing of blood or blood stained sputum
- Belly ache or stomach ache
- Inflammation of the gullet and stomach
- Allergic reaction
- Difficulty in swallowing
- Yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, caused by liver or blood problems

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data):

- Lack of white blood cells (which help to fight infections)
- Serious allergic reaction which causes difficulty in breathing or dizziness
- Serious allergic reaction which causes swelling of the face or throat
- Difficulty in breathing or wheezing
- Bleeding
- Bleeding may happen into a joint or from an injury, from a surgical incision, or from the site of entry of an injection or from the site of entry of a catheter into a vein
- Bleeding may happen from piles
- Ulcer in the stomach or bowel (incl. ulcer in the gullet)
- Unusual laboratory test results on liver function

### Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via Yellow Card Scheme at: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**.

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

### 5. How to store Pradaxa

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Blister: Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Bottle: Once opened, the medicine must be used within 4 months.

Keep the bottle tightly closed. Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Do not take the capsules after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister/bottle labels after 'Exp'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

If the capsule becomes discoloured or shows any signs of deterioration, seek the advice of your pharmacist.

Medicine should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste.

Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required.

These measures will help to protect the environment.

### 6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### What Pradaxa contains

The active ingredient in the Pradaxa is dabigatran.

Each hard capsule contains 110mg dabigatran etexilate (as mesilate).

The other ingredients are tartaric acid, acacia, hypromellose, dimeticone 350, talc and hydroxypropylcellulose.

The capsule shell contains carrageenan, potassium chloride, titanium dioxide, indigo carmine and hypromellose.

The black printing ink contains shellac, iron oxide black and potassium hydroxide.

#### What Pradaxa looks like and contents of the pack

Pradaxa is opaque, light blue-coloured cap and an opaque, light blue - coloured body. The Boehringer Ingelheim logo is printed on the cap and 'R110' on the body of the hard capsule.

It is available in pack size of 60 hard capsules.

**Manufactured by:** Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma GmbH & Co. KG, Binger Strasse 173, 55216 Ingelheim am Rhein, Germany.

Boehringer Ingelheim France 100-104 avenue de France 75013 Paris France.

**Procured from within the EU & repackaged by the Product Licence holder:** B&S Healthcare, Unit 4, Bradfield Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0NU, UK.

**Pradaxa® 110mg hard capsules; PLGB 18799/3612**

For any information about this medicine, please contact the Product

Licence Holder: B&S Healthcare, Unit 4, Bradfield Road, Ruislip,

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