

Digoxin Tablets

Why is this medication prescribed?

Digoxin is used to treat heart failure, usually along with other medications.

Treating heart failure may help maintain your ability to walk and exercise and may improve the strength of your heart.

Digoxin belongs to a class of medications called cardiac glycosides. It works by affecting certain minerals (sodium and potassium) inside heart cells. This reduces strain on the heart and helps it maintain a normal, steady, and strong heartbeat.

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth with or without food, usually once daily or as directed by your doctor.

Therefore, take this medication at least 2 hours before or after eating food products that are high in fiber (such as bran). If you are also taking cholestyramine, colestipol, or psyllium, wait at least 2 hours after taking your digoxin dose before taking any of these products. If you are taking antacids, kaolin-pectin, milk of magnesia, metoclopramide, sulfasalazine, or aminosalicilic acid, take them as far apart from your digoxin dose as possible.

The dosage of this medication is based on your medical condition, age, body weight, and response to treatment.

Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it.

Other uses for this medicine

It is also used to treat a certain type of irregular heartbeat (chronic atrial fibrillation).

Treating an irregular heartbeat can decrease the risk for blood clots, an effect that may reduce your risk for a heart attack or stroke.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking digoxin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to similar drugs (such as digitoxin); or if you have any other allergies.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking a diuretic (water pill) or if you have a history of mineral imbalance.

Before having surgery or certain procedures on your heart (such as electrical cardioversion), tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication.

Infants and children may be more sensitive to the effects of this drug, especially the effects on the heartbeat.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant before using this medication.

Digoxin passes into breast milk.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember if it is within 12 hours of your scheduled dose. If it is more than 12 hours after your scheduled dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule.

If you miss 2 consecutive doses speak to your doctor to make a new dosing schedule.

What side effects can this medication cause?

If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking digoxin and seek medical attention or contact your doctor immediately:

- an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of the throat; swelling of the lips, tongue, or face; or hives);
- a severe headache, fainting, or extreme drowsiness or dizziness;
- irregular heartbeats;
- slow heartbeats (fewer than 60 beats per minute);
- abnormally fast heartbeats;
- vision changes (e.g., yellow-green or blurred vision);
- hallucinations; or
- abnormal or psychotic behavior.

If you experience any of the following less serious side effects, continue to take digoxin and talk to your doctor if you experience

- decreased appetite and diarrhea;
- unusual tiredness or weakness;
- depression;
- nausea or vomiting;
- drowsiness or dizziness;
- decreased sex drive; or
- enlarged breasts in males.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature between 20-25 degrees C away from light and moisture.

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, stop taking this medication and contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately

What other information should I know?

Do not stop taking digoxin suddenly. Stopping suddenly could make your condition worse. Even if you feel better, you need to keep taking this medication to help the heart work properly. Make sure you always have enough digoxin on hand for vacations and holidays.

Digoxin is in the FDA pregnancy category C. This means that it is not known whether digoxin will be harmful to an unborn baby. Do not take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant or could become pregnant during treatment.