



General Authority for Health Services for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

**Al-Rahba Hospital
Department of Pharmacy**

Generic name: WARFARIN



Why is this medication used?

This medication is anticoagulant agent to treats or prevents blood clots. It is usually given to patients who have had a heart attack or heart valve replacement surgery.



How should this medication be used?

- Your doctor will tell you how much to take and how often.
- Normally it is single dose.
- Do not take it with food.
- Take it at the same time daily, preferably in the evening.
- Dosing is highly individual and has to be adjusted several times based on lab test results.
- Do not discontinue therapy without talking to your physician, it is long term therapy.
- It is important not to switch brands of Digoxin without first consulting with your doctor.



What special precautions should I follow?

- Talk with your doctor if you have kidney, liver, heart disease, or stomach ulcer.
- Inform your doctor if you are pregnant or breast feeding.
- You may bleed more easily while you are using this medication. Stay away from rough sports or other situation where you could be bruised; be careful when using sharp objects.
- Refill prescriptions one week before supply runs out.
- Carry your anticoagulant card indicating the date, result and dose ordered by the doctor.³
- Many medications can interfere with the way Warfrin works and can result undesirable effects, it is important to inform your doctor if you are using any medications.
- If you are having surgery, including dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking Warfrin.
- It is important to keep all appointments with your doctor and laboratory.
- You should Store this medication at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Keep all medications away from children.



What special dietary instructions should I follow?

- This medication interacts with diet rich in vitamin K, Major changes in the amount of vitamin K you eat may affect the way Warfrin works, do not make major changes in your diet by suddenly increasing or decreasing your consumption of food s that are high in vitamin K.
- Some examples of food that are rich in vitamin K are: liver, Cauliflower, Parsley, Coriander, Mint leaves, Green tea, lentils, cabbage, Spanish, and soybeans oil.



What should I do if I forget to take a dose?

- Use the missed dose as soon as you remember, if it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use your medicine and skip the missed dose.
- You should not use two doses at the same time.



What side effects can this medication cause?

You may experience the following symptoms: headache, upset stomach, diarrhea, fever, and skin rash

Notify your physician if you experience any of the following:

Bleeding, blood in the urine, fever, chills, swelling in hands and feet, and yellowish skin or eyes.

Prepared by: Pharmacy Department- Al-Rahba Hospital

Approved by: Patient Counseling Task Force

Reference available upon request

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