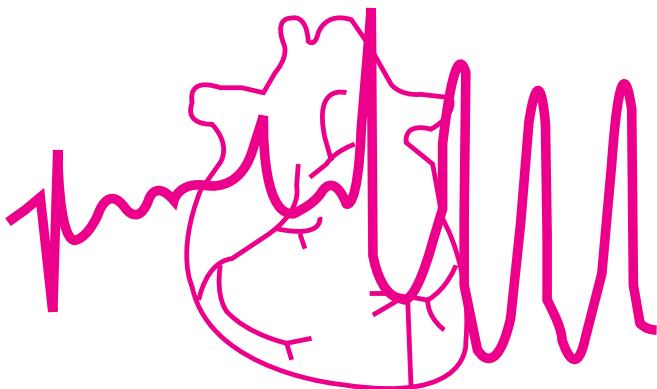


# PATIENT INFORMATION

## Medicine To Treat: **C**ardiac Diseases

*Digoxin*



## **WHAT IS THE MEDICINE USED FOR?**

Digoxin is used primarily to suppress rapid heart rhythm. It is also used in heart failure to improve heart function.

## **HOW SHOULD I TAKE THE MEDICINE?**

Take digoxin by mouth with a drink of water. Follow the directions on the prescription label. Take your doses at a regular time. Always take the medicine either before or after meals.

## **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I FORGET A DOSE?**

Try not to miss doses. If you do miss a dose, take it as soon as you can within 12 hours. If it is after the 12 hours, do not take that dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, do not take the missed dose and do not double your next dose for the missed one.

## **WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE MEDICINE?**

Digoxin can worsen existing abnormal heart rhythm or can cause new abnormal heart rhythm.

Common adverse reactions that you may experience include:

- diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting
- headache, dizziness
- visual disturbances

*Keep all medication out of reach of children.*

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

## **WHAT PRECAUTION SHOULD I TAKE?**

There are several drugs that affect the level of digoxin in your body. As such it is not advisable to take it concurrently with traditional medications. When consulting for any illness, please inform doctors that you are taking this medicine.

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

Digoxin is distributed into milk. Due to the potential for serious adverse effects in nursing infants, a decision has to be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or the medicine, taking into account the importance of the medicine to the patient.

Your doctor may examine the blood level of digoxin at intervals to determine adequacy of the treatment.

## **HOW SHOULD I STORE MY MEDICINE?**

You should keep your medication in a tight, light resistant container at cool dry places.

***Discard all medication that is outdated or no longer required.***





Ministry Of Health



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