

## What are the possible side effects ?

The most common side effect associated with the use of DOACs is bleeding. Patients should monitor for signs or symptoms of bleeding:

- Unusual skin bruising
- Prolonged nosebleed (for more than 10 minutes)



- Blood in urine or have red / dark brown urine
- Vomiting blood or matter that looks like coffee grounds



- Coughing up blood
- Abdominal pain or swelling
- Excessive bleeding from gums when brushing the teeth
- Blood in stools or passing black stools
- Heavy or increased menstrual bleeding or unusual vaginal bleeding between periods
- Prolonged bleeding from cuts or wounds that does not stop (persistent bleeding after pressing with clean gauze for more than 10 minutes)

If bleeding persists or becomes severe, you should seek immediate medical attention.

## What if I miss a dose ?

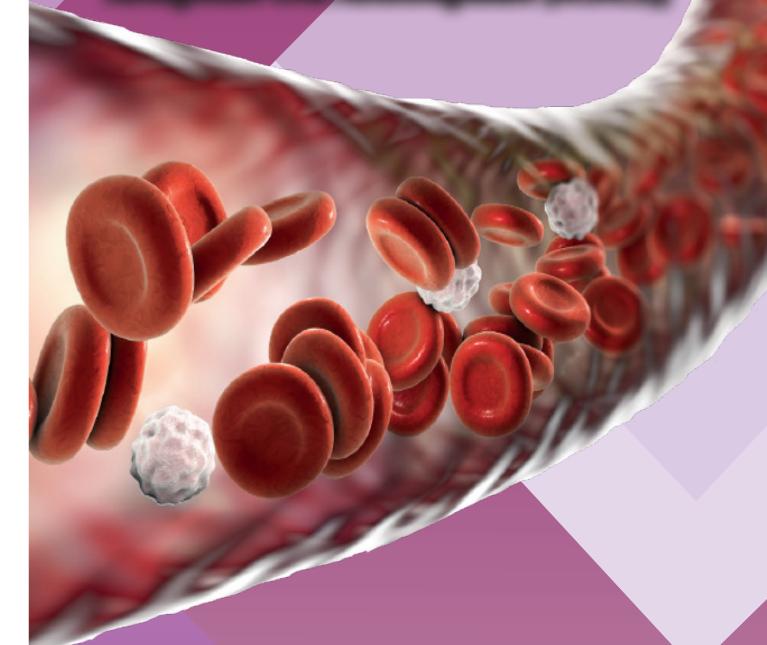
- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose.
- Do not double the dose.

## How to store ?

- Store in a cool, dry place and away from direct heat and light.
- Keep dabigatran etexilate capsules in the original packaging until administration, even if you use a pill organizer.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Discard all medications that have expired or are no longer required.
- Do not share the medication with other people.

# Direct Oral Anticoagulant (DOAC)

[also known as Non-Vitamin K Antagonist Oral Anticoagulant (NOACs)]



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藥劑職系及服務統籌委員會  
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## What are DOACs ?

DOACs are a new generation of oral anticoagulants (also known as Non-Vitamin K Antagonist Oral Anticoagulant (NOACs)) and are commonly called a 'blood thinner'. They prevent harmful blood clots from forming inside the blood vessels by increasing the time it takes for the blood to clot. DOACs include the following:

- Direct Thrombin Inhibitor: Dabigatran etexilate
- Factor Xa Inhibitors: Apixaban, Edoxaban, Rivaroxaban

## Indication

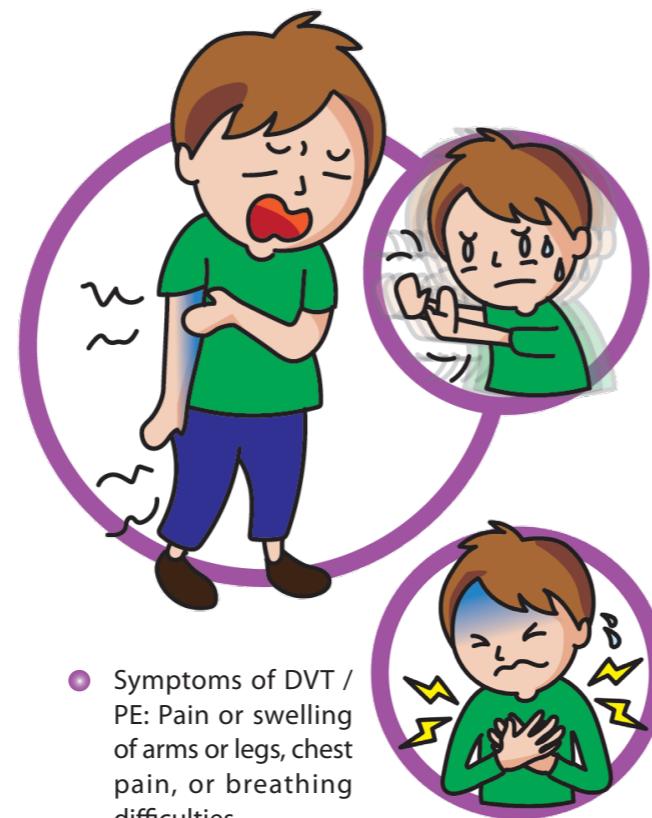
DOACs are prescribed to patients who have had conditions caused by the formation of blood clots such as clots in the legs (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) or clots in the lung (pulmonary embolism or PE). They may also be prescribed to patients with conditions that increase the risk of developing harmful clots such as irregular heartbeat (non-valvular atrial fibrillation).

## How does it work ?

There are 2 types of DOACs – Direct Thrombin Inhibitor and Factor Xa Inhibitors. By directly inhibiting the action of clotting factors, taking DOACs results in a longer time for the blood to clot.

## Precautions related to drug administration

- Despite appropriate use of DOACs, the risk of formation of harmful blood clots inside the blood vessels or experiencing side effects cannot be eliminated. If you develop any of the symptoms listed below, seek medical help immediately:
- Symptoms of stroke: sudden severe headache with no known cause, blurred vision, difficulty in speaking or slurred speech, dizziness, sudden and transient numbness, weakness, or paralysis of one arm, one leg or half of the face.



- Symptoms of DVT / PE: Pain or swelling of arms or legs, chest pain, or breathing difficulties.

## Precautions related to daily activities

- Tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking DOACs before you undergo any procedure or surgery.
- Avoid activities that could easily lead to injury. If you have a fall or bump your head, closely monitor for signs of internal bleeding (e.g. sudden severe headache, unusual bruising, or blood in urine or stools) and consult your doctor immediately if necessary.
- Reduce the risk of bleeding in daily activities by using products less likely to cause bleeding, such as using a soft bristle toothbrush or shaving with an electric razor rather than a blade.

