



Patient & Family Guide
2018

Digoxin



www.nshealth.ca

Digoxin

Why do I need this medication?

Digoxin is used to treat heart failure and certain types of irregular heartbeats (arrhythmias).

Brand name: Toloxin®

Do not take this medication if you have ever had an allergic reaction to digoxin.

How to take and store this medicine

- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children.
- Take this medicine exactly as your doctor or nurse practitioner ordered.
- You can take digoxin with or without food. Make sure you take it the same way each day.
- Store at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.

If you miss a dose

- Take the missed dose as soon as possible, unless you are more than 12 hours late.
- If you are more than 12 hours late, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your usual time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time. If you miss your doses for 2 days or more, check with your doctor or nurse practitioner.

Drugs and foods to avoid

- **Ask your doctor, nurse practitioner, or pharmacist before taking any other medicine, including over-the-counter products.**
- Make sure your doctor knows if you are taking amiodarone (Cordarone®), verapamil, amphetamines, diet pills, medicine for diarrhea, asthma, allergies, or colds, propafenone (Rythmol®), Questran® or Colestid®, quinidine, potassium pills, other heart medicines, diuretics (water pills) such as Lasix® or hydrochlorothiazide, or other medicines that lower the amount of potassium in your blood.
- Tell your doctor or nurse practitioner if you are on a high fibre diet.
- Do not take antacids (such as Maalox® or Mylanta®) or kaolin-pectin (Kaopectate®).

Warnings

- Check with your doctor or nurse practitioner before taking digoxin if you have kidney disease.
- Tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking digoxin before you have any kind of surgery.
- Check with your doctor or nurse practitioner before stopping digoxin. **Do not stop taking this medicine suddenly.**
- Do not change brands of digoxin unless you check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor or nurse practitioner right away if you have any of these serious side effects:

- › irregular heartbeat or fainting
- › trouble breathing
- › skin rash, hives, or itching
- › nausea (feeling sick to your stomach), appetite loss, vomiting (throwing up), or diarrhea
- › unusual weakness, tiredness, or drowsiness
- › blurred vision or coloured vision, such as yellow, green, or white halos around objects

If you have other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, talk with your doctor, nurse practitioner, or pharmacist.

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>
Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.