Nightingale Home Healthcare

Affiliate Companies:
Aspire Home Healthcare
Nightingale & Nightingale Visiting Nurses / Hospice

DIGOXIN

Brand names: Digitek®, Lanoxin®, Lanoxicaps®

What is this medication used for?

Digoxin is used to treat heart failure and certain types of irregular heartbeat, also called arrhythmias.

How should I take this medication?

Digoxin is taken by mouth.

Digoxin should be taken at the same time each day.

You should take digoxin on an empty stomach if you can tolerate it. If not, it is okay to take it with food.

Your doctor may want you to check your pulse each day before taking digoxin. A nurse or caregiver can teach you how to check your pulse. Your doctor will tell you how fast your pulse should be (for adults, the usual range is 60 to 100 heartbeats per minute). If your pulse is too high, or too low, call your doctor before you take your dose of digoxin.

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember as long as it's within 12 hours. If it has been more than 12 hours (or less than 12 hours before your next scheduled dose), skip it and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

If you miss your doses for 2 days or more, check with your doctor.

Do not take any new medication (prescription or over-the-counter) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

You may need to carry identification showing that you are taking digoxin. Ask your doctor about this.

What are the side effects of this medication?

- Agitation
- Anxiety
- Hallucinations
- Diarrhea
- Confusion

Other side effects not listed may also occur. Check with your physician if you notice any other effects.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

Dizziness, fainting, fast, pounding, or irregular heartbeat or pulse , slow heartbeat, trouble breathing, blurred vision or colored vision such as yellow, green, or white halo around objects.

Special Instructions:

Digoxin is a High Alert Medication. This means that there is a risk of significant harm if digoxin is used in error.

Make sure you take digoxin exactly as directed by your doctor.

Your blood will be tested on a periodic basis to make sure that digoxin is not causing any harmful effects. Make sure these tests are completed.

You should continue to take digoxin even if you feel well.

Digoxin has many interactions with other medications. Check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have questions about this.

This information is only a summary. Please contact your healthcare professional for additional information about this medication.