



Digoxin

Heart medicine
for your child

What is Digoxin?

Digoxin is a very potent medicine that helps the heart beat strongly and regularly. It helps the heart pump blood throughout the body to areas that need it, like the legs. It treats heart failure and some abnormal heart rhythms.

How do I give Digoxin to my child?

- Most children take this medicine 1 or 2 times a day. Talk to your doctor about the right dose for your child.
- Always give it at the same time each day.
- Give it exactly as directed by your child's doctor. If the directions aren't clear, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- Digoxin comes in either a liquid or pill form.
- Your child can take it with or without food. Make sure you are consistent in the way you give it to your child.
- Be careful to correctly measure the dose.

What if we miss or forget a dose?

Do not stop giving Digoxin suddenly. This quick change could make your child's heart condition worse. Keep giving this medicine even if your child starts to feel better. It is still helping the heart to pump properly. Make sure you always have enough Digoxin on hand for vacations and holidays.

- If you missed the morning dose:
 - If you remember the morning dose **before 12 noon**, give the dose when you remember and stay on the regular schedule.
- If you missed the evening dose:
 - If you remember the evening dose **before 12 midnight**, give the dose when you remember and stay on the regular schedule.
- Never give your child 2 doses at the same time.
- If you miss more than 2 doses in a row, contact your child's healthcare provider or the Heart Center.

What if my child throws up after taking this medicine?

- If your child throws up after taking a dose of Digoxin, **do not give the dose again right away**. Give the next dose at the regular time.
- Never give your child 2 doses at the same time.

To Learn More

- Heart Center
206-987-2015
- After hours and on weekends
(hospital operator)
206-987-2000
- Ask your child's nurse or doctor
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers
206-987-2280 (TTY).

What if I accidentally give an extra dose?

- Call the Heart Center to discuss the situation.
- Skip the next dose that you would otherwise give.

What are the side effects?

Side effects can change based on the amount of medicine your child is taking. Call the Heart Center if your child has:

- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Weakness, drowsiness, dizziness
- Irregular heartbeats
- Trouble seeing, blurry vision, double vision, yellow-green lights

What if I run out of medicine?

Call your pharmacy when you are close to running out of medicine. The pharmacy will contact us about refills. The clinic visit is the best time to make sure your child is getting the right dose and has enough medicine.

When do I call the doctor?

- **If your child eats or drinks the Digoxin by mistake, call 911 to go to the nearest hospital. Take the bottle of Digoxin with you so you can show the doctors. An overdose of this medicine can be life-threatening.**
- If you miss more than 2 doses in a row.
- If you accidentally give an extra dose.

Remember:

- **Bring a list of your child's medicines to each clinic appointment.**
- **Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.**