



MDwise

A McLaren Company

Heart Failure: Digoxin

Digoxin helps your heart pump blood better. People usually take it once a day as a pill. You may also get this medicine if you are in the hospital. In this case, it may be given through a needle into a vein in your arm (intravenously, or IV).

How does digoxin work?

When you have heart failure, your heart does not pump blood as well as it should. Digoxin slows and strengthens heart contractions. This allows the heart to pump more blood with each beat.

Why is digoxin used for heart failure?

Your doctor may have given you digoxin because you still are having symptoms while taking other heart failure medicines. Symptoms can include trouble breathing, swelling in your legs, and being very tired.

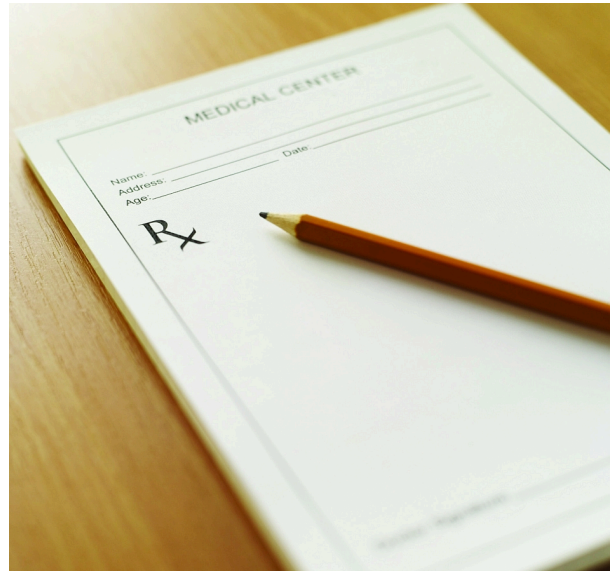
How well does it work?

Research studies show that digoxin helps reduce heart failure symptoms. It may also lower the chance you will need to be in the hospital.

Side effects

Ask your pharmacist about the side effects of each medicine you take. Side effects are also listed in the information that comes with your medicine.

Overdose of digoxin (also called digoxin poisoning) can happen if you have too much



digoxin in your blood. Call your doctor right away if you have symptoms of an overdose:

- Loss of appetite
- Stomach problems, such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Loss of vision
- Confusion
- Change in heartbeat (fast, slow, or irregular)

Call your doctor if you think you are having a problem with your medicine. **Call 911 right away** if you think you are having a serious reaction, such as trouble breathing.

What to think about

You may have regular tests to check the level of digoxin in your blood. Your doctor will make sure you are taking a safe amount of digoxin. Tell your doctor about all of the

medicines, vitamins, and supplements you take. Other medicines can change the amount

of digoxin in your blood so that you have too much digoxin.



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