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Warfarin (By mouth)
Warfarin (WAR-far-in)

Helps to prevent new blood clots from forming, and helps to keep existing blood clots from getting worse. This medicine is a blood thinner (anticoagulant).

Brand Name(s): Coumadin, Jantoven, Warfarin

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to warfarin, or if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Ask your doctor about using this medicine if you are having or have recently had surgery. Usually, you should not use this medicine if you are having surgery on your eyes, brain, or spine, or major surgery that will leave you with large, open wounds. This medicine should not be used if you have certain heart problems, severe or uncontrolled high blood pressure, or any condition that may cause uncontrolled bleeding (such as a stomach ulcer or hemophilia).

How to Use This Medicine:

Tablet

- Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Your dose may need to be changed several times in order to find out what works best for you. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you to.
- You may take this medicine with or without food.
- This medicine should come with a Medication Guide. Read and follow these instructions carefully. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions. Ask your pharmacist for the Medication Guide if you do not have one. Your doctor might ask you to sign some forms to show that you understand this information.

If a dose is missed:

- If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:

- Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light.
- Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any leftover medicine after you have finished your treatment. You will also need to throw away old medicine after the expiration date has passed.
- Keep all medicine away from children and never share your medicine with anyone.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid:

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.

- Do not take other medicines that also contain warfarin. Using too much warfarin may cause serious bleeding problems.
- There are **many** other medicines that you should not use while you are using warfarin. These include many herbs, supplements, and over-the-counter (nonprescription) medicines. **Ask your doctor before you use any other medicine**, especially products that contain nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, Advil®, Aleve®, or Motrin®. Carefully check the labels of all other medicines you are using to be sure they do not contain NSAIDs.
- Carefully follow your doctor's instructions about any special diet. This medicine works best when you eat about the same amount of vitamin K in your food every day. Avoid big changes in how much vitamin K you eat. Some foods that have a high amount of vitamin K are asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, green leafy vegetables (such as collards, turnip greens, mustard greens, spinach, and salad greens), plums, rhubarb, and certain vegetable oils (such as soybean oil and canola oil).
- You should avoid drinking cranberry juice or any other cranberry products.
- Do not drink alcohol while you are using this medicine.

Warnings While Using This Medicine:

- Using this medicine while you are pregnant can harm your unborn baby. Use an effective form of birth control to keep from getting pregnant. If you think you have become pregnant while using the medicine, tell your doctor right away.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you are breastfeeding, or if you have kidney disease, liver disease, congestive heart failure, high blood pressure, diabetes, any type of infection, or bleeding problems. Also tell your doctor if you have recently had a fall or other injury.
- You may bleed and bruise more easily while you are using this medicine. Stay away from rough sports or other situations where you could be bruised, cut, or injured. Brush and floss your teeth gently. Be careful when using sharp objects, including razors and fingernail clippers. Avoid picking your nose. If you need to blow your nose, blow it gently.
- Tell your doctor right away if you start to have diarrhea, fever, or any signs of infection.
- Carry an ID card or wear a medical alert bracelet to let any emergency caregivers know that you are using warfarin.
- Do not stop taking any of your medicines or start any new medicines unless they have been discussed with your doctor. Always keep a list of your medicines with you at all times.
- Make sure any doctor or dentist who treats you knows that you are using this medicine. You may need to stop using this medicine several days before having surgery or medical tests.
- Your doctor will need to check your blood at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.

Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

- Allergic reaction: Itching or hives, swelling in your face or hands, swelling or tingling in your mouth or throat, chest tightness, trouble breathing.

- Bleeding from your gums or nose, bruising easily, or coughing up blood.
- Blistering, soreness, or redness of the skin.
- Chest pain, shortness of breath, or trouble with breathing or swallowing.
- Cold clammy skin, confusion, fast, weak pulse, or sweating.
- Decrease in how much or how often you urinate.
- Dizziness, fainting, or lightheadedness.
- Fever, chills, sore throat, or cough.
- Heavy menstrual bleeding, or bleeding from cuts or wounds that does not stop.
- Numbness, tingling, or weakness anywhere in your body, or problems with movement, swallowing, or speech.
- Purple discoloration of your toes or the soles of your feet, or new pain in a leg, foot, or your toes.
- Red or dark brown urine, or red or black stools.
- Swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet.
- Unusual bleeding, bruising, or weakness.
- Unusual drowsiness, tiredness, or loss of consciousness.
- Vomiting of blood or material that looks like coffee grounds.
- Yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes.

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

- Hair loss.
- Headache or body pains.
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or upset stomach.
- Painful, prolonged erection of your penis.
- Pale skin or rash.
- Unusual or unpleasant taste.

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

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