

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
nationwidechildrens.org

DIGOXIN (LANOXIN®)

Digoxin (di-JOX-in), or Lanoxin® (lan-OX-in), is a medicine that makes the heart work more efficiently. Digoxin slows down a rapid heart rate, improves the pumping action of the heart, and regulates an irregular heart rate. Lanoxin is a light green liquid. (Most children think this medicine tastes good, so be sure to store it out of the reach of children.) Digoxin is also available in tablets for older children.

REMEMBER

Read the label **each time** before you give your child this medicine.

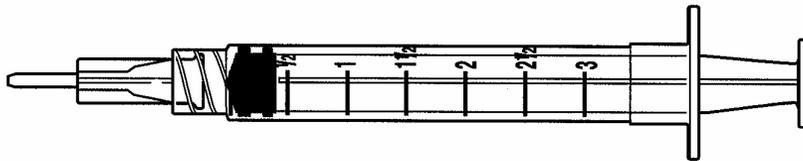
If the medicine is a liquid, use the oral syringe to measure the exact dose. Don't measure liquid medicines in kitchen spoons.

DOCTOR'S ORDER

Child's name: _____ Date: _____
Age: _____ Weight: _____

If your child takes pills, this dose is _____ tablet(s).

Your child's dose is _____ mg. The dose of liquid medicine is _____.



Give a dose _____ time(s) a day at the following time(s) _____ am _____ pm

- Digoxin is usually given 12 hours apart, twice a day (once in the morning and once in the evening). Remember to always give it at the **same time each day**.
- Always use the marked dropper or oral syringe so that the exact dose is given.
- **Always give the exact dose as ordered - never give more or less.**
- Stay with your child until he or she has swallowed the dose of medicine.
- Never stop giving the medicine without talking with your child's doctor first.
- Give digoxin as prescribed, even if your child seems well.
- If your child has trouble taking medicine, ask your nurse for the Helping Hand: *Medications: How to Give By Mouth*, HH-IV-28.

FOOD AND DRUG INTERACTIONS

This medicine should be given on an empty stomach (before eating). Avoid taking with foods high in fiber. If the amount of potassium in your child's body is too low, he or she may be more likely to develop side effects. Make sure that your child gets enough potassium in his or her diet (bananas, orange juice). If you have any questions about this, please tell the nursing staff and they can contact a pharmacist or nutritionist.

IF YOU FORGET TO GIVE A DOSE

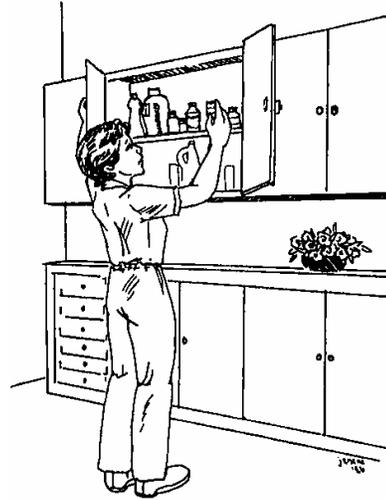
If you forget to give a dose, you may give it up to 2 hours later. If it has been more than 2 hours, don't give that dose. Wait and give the next dose at the next **regularly** scheduled time. **DON'T GIVE EXTRA DOSES** or try to catch up.

IF A DOSE IS VOMITED

If your child vomits after taking the medicine, **don't repeat the dose**. Give the normal dose at the next regularly scheduled time.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Acting irritable (grouchy) without any reason
- Loss of appetite, without any reason
- Older children may complain of vision problems
- Sensitive to light



Picture 1 It is very important to store this medicine out of children's reach.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Call your child's doctor if any of the following occurs:

- Nausea and vomiting that continues for more than 24 hours.
- Your child has any of the side effects.
- If your child takes or is given more digoxin than was ordered, immediately call your doctor or go to your nearest emergency room. Bring all your remaining medicines with you.

STORAGE OF MEDICATION

- Store all medicine out of the reach of children.
- Don't use this medicine after the expiration date printed on the container.
- Always keep medicine in the original container from the pharmacy.

SAFETY TIPS AND OTHER INFORMATION

- This medicine is very important for your child's heart. Don't stop giving this medicine and don't change the amount given without first talking with your child's doctor.
- The doctor has prescribed this medicine for your child only. Don't give it to anyone else.
- Get this prescription refilled at least 2 days before the last dose is given. This is very important.
- Tell your child's teacher, school nurse, coach, baby-sitter, and others that your child is taking this medicine and what side effects to watch for.
- Bring all your child's medicines with you (in the original containers) whenever your child sees a doctor, goes to an emergency room, or is admitted to the hospital. This helps doctors who may not know your child.

FOLLOW-UP APPOINTMENTS

- Blood may need to be drawn from time to time to check the digoxin level in the blood.
- Write down all of your questions as you think of them. Bring this list with you when you see the doctor.
- Be sure to call your doctor if you cannot keep the appointment.

If you have any questions be sure to ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist, or call the Cardiology Department at (phone) _____.