PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Acenocoumarol

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

Brand Names: Canada

Sintrom [DSC]

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat or prevent blood clots.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you have any of these health problems: Blood vessel problems like aneurysm or dissecting aorta; bleeding problems; bleeding in the brain; active ulcer; bleeding of the stomach, bowel, urinary tract, genitals, or respiratory tract; blood problems; heart problems like

pericarditis or heart valve infection; kidney disease; liver disease; low platelet count; recent surgery, including surgery of the eye or brain; very high blood pressure; low vitamin C levels; or arthritis.

- If you have any of these health problems: A certain health problem called pre-eclampsia, seizures during pregnancy (eclampsia), induction of labor, or threatened spontaneous abortion.
- If you abuse alcohol or have a drinking problem.
- If you have ever had any mental health or behavior problems.
- If you are having surgery, talk with your doctor.
- If you will be getting spinal anesthesia or a spinal treatment.
- If you have had spinal anesthesia, surgery, or any spinal care, talk with your doctor.
- If you know that you will not take the drug or have your blood work (PT/INR) checked as you have been told.
- If you have been told that your body has problems with certain sugars (lactose, glucose, galactose). Some products have lactose.
- If you take other drugs as an injection into the muscle.

- If you are taking any of these drugs: Acetylsalicylic acid or aspirin, an antibiotic like clindamycin, clopidogrel, dipyridamole, diflunisal, heparin or other drugs like it, methylprednisolone, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) like celecoxib or phenylbutazone, para-aminosalicylic acid (PAS), sulfinpyrazone, or ticlopidine.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists. This drug may need to be stopped before certain types of surgery as your doctor has told you. If this drug is stopped, your doctor will tell you when to

start taking this drug again after your surgery or procedure.

- Have patient safety card with you at all times.
- Use care to prevent injury and avoid falls or crashes.
- Avoid actions or sports that may raise the chance of injury or bleeding.
- If you fall or hurt yourself, or if you hit your head, call your doctor right away. Talk with your doctor even if you feel fine.
- You may bleed more easily. Be careful and avoid injury. Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor. Rarely, some bleeding problems have been deadly.
- You will need to have your blood work (PT/INR) checked while you take this drug. This is important to make sure the drug works right and to check your risk of bleeding. Have your PT/INR checked as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider. If you are not sure when you need to have your PT/INR checked, call your doctor or other health care provider.
- Talk with your doctor before using products that have aspirin, blood thinners, garlic, ginseng, ginkgo, ibuprofen or like products, pain drugs, or vitamin E.
- Talk with your doctor before taking multivitamins,

natural products, and diet aids. These may have vitamin K in them.

- Certain foods can affect your PT/INR levels. Follow the diet plan that your doctor or other health care provider told you about.
- Avoid cranberry and cranberry juice.
- Talk with your doctor about the amount of vitamin K in your diet. Vitamin K may change how this drug works. You do not have to avoid all foods with vitamin K. However, you will need to keep the amount of foods with vitamin K in your diet about the same from day to day. Many foods have vitamin K in them. This includes some green, leafy vegetables; broccoli; liver; and certain vegetable oils. Get a list of foods that have vitamin K in them from your doctor. Do not make big changes in your normal diet without talking with your doctor.
- Talk with your doctor before you drink alcohol.
- A very bad and sometimes deadly health problem involving the skin (calciphylaxis) has happened with this drug. This has happened in people with and without very bad kidney problems. Talk with the doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You

could have more side effects.

- If the patient is a child, use this drug with care. The risk of some side effects may be higher in children.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test may be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.
- If you may become pregnant, you must use birth control while taking this drug. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips,

tongue, or throat.

- Signs of bleeding like throwing up or coughing up blood; vomit that looks like coffee grounds; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; abnormal vaginal bleeding; bruises without a cause or that get bigger; or bleeding you cannot stop.
- Very heavy periods (menstrual bleeding).
- Severe dizziness or passing out.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Very bad headache.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Severe stomach pain.
- Change in skin color to black or purple.

What are some other side effects of this drug?

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Use this drug exactly as you have been told, even if you feel well. This is important for the drug to work right and to lower the risk of bleeding.
- Take this drug at the same time of day.
- Swallow whole with a full glass of water.
- Take with or without food.
- Do not stop taking this drug all of a sudden without calling your doctor. You may have a greater risk of side effects. If you need to stop this drug, you will want to slowly stop it as ordered by your doctor.
- If you take cholestyramine, talk with your pharmacist about how to take it with this drug.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it on the same day you missed the dose.
- If you do not think about the missed dose until the next day, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take more than 1 dose of this drug in the same day.

How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take

anyone else’s drugs.

- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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This generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your care team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5 p.m., during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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