

## COLER ♥ CARTER

### Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility January 2016

#### **FDA approves Praxbind, an reversal agent of the blood-thinning effects of Pradaxa**



Many of the patients here at Carter are often put on anticoagulants such as heparin, enoxaparin or warfarin in order to decrease the risk of developing DVT/PEs. Sometimes it is necessary to reverse these medications' anticoagulant effects, especially when the patient is bleeding. The only two anticoagulants that have reversal agents are heparin and warfarin, using protamine sulfate and phytonadione (vitamin K) respectively.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), on October 16, 2015, approved the first reversal agent for a direct oral anticoagulant. Praxbind (idarucizumab) is used to reverse the effects of Pradaxa (dabigatran). In the phase 3 clinical trial (REVERSE-AD), 89% of patients receiving idarucizumab saw within four hours a full reversal of the anticoagulant effect of dabigatran.

Dabigatran works by binding to the active site of thrombin, preventing it from converting fibrinogen to fibrin and effectively inhibiting the final step in clot formation. Idarucizumab is a humanized monoclonal antibody fragment that binds to dabigatran and its metabolites with higher affinity than the affinity dabigatran has for thrombin, stopping dabigatran's anticoagulant effect. It cannot be used as an antidote for Xarelto (rivaroxaban) or Eliquis (apixaban), as these anticoagulants inhibit clotting by a different mechanism.

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#### Resources

Pradaxa ® [package insert]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2015  
Praxbind ® [package insert]. Ridgefield, CT: Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2015  
*FDA News Release: FDA approves Praxbind, the first reversal agent for the anticoagulant Pradaxa:* n. pag. Fda.gov. 18 Oct. 2015. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.