

□ Dabigatran Reversal in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

Latest

- [Neurosurgical complications of direct thrombin inhibitors--catastrophic hemorrhage after mild traumatic brain injury in a patient receiving dabigatran](#)

□ Context

Patients on [dabigatran \(Pradaxa\)](#) who suffer a [mild traumatic brain injury \(GCS 13-15\)](#) are at increased [risk](#) of [delayed intracranial bleeding](#). Prompt assessment and potential [dabigatran reversal](#) are essential.

□ Initial Evaluation

- Immediate non-contrast head **CT scan**
- Assess:
 - [GCS score](#)
 - [Neurological deficits](#)
 - Timing and [severity](#) of [trauma](#)
 - Last **dabigatran** intake (within last 12-24h, most relevant)
- [Renal function \(creatinine clearance\)](#) to estimate [drug clearance](#)

□ Reversal Protocol

□ If ****CT shows intracranial hemorrhage**** or clinical signs of bleeding:

- Administer [idarucizumab \(Praxbind\)](#) **5 g IV**, in two consecutive 2.5 g [bolus infusions](#) (within 15 minutes)
- Monitor for signs of rebound [anticoagulation](#)

□ If ****CT is normal****, but high bleeding risk:

- Consider **holding dabigatran**
- Observe clinically for 12-24h
- Repeat **head CT** in 6-12h if:
 - Age >75
 - [High-energy trauma](#)
 - [Antiplatelet](#) co-medication
 - Comorbidities ([renal failure](#), [dementia](#))

□ If ****low-risk + normal CT****:

- [Outpatient observation](#) may be considered after:
 - Neurology/neurosurgery consult
 - Patient/family [informed consent](#)
 - Structured [discharge instructions](#)

□ Documentation Checklist

- Exact [time](#) and [dose](#) of last dabigatran intake
- [Neurological examination](#) + [GCS](#)
- [CT findings](#)
- [Renal function](#)
- [Reversal indication](#) and timing
- Plan for repeat imaging (yes/no, when)
- Disposition (admit vs discharge)

□ Best Practice

- Use [Idarucizumab](#) only in active or high-risk bleeding
- Ensure protocol is aligned with the [emergency department](#) and the [ICU](#)
- Educate [staff](#) on location and indications for [reversal agents](#)

□ See Also

- [Anticoagulation reversal](#)

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