

Apixaban for the treatment of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or Pulmonary Embolism (PE)

Information for patients

**If you need this leaflet in a different language or accessible format
please speak to a member of staff who can arrange it for you.**

اگر به این بروشور به زبان دیگر یا در قالب دسترس پذیر نیاز دارید،
لطفاً با یکی از کارکنان صحبت کنید تا آن را برای شما تهیه کند.

Jeśli niniejsza ulotka ma być dostępna w innym języku lub formacie,
proszę skontaktować się z członkiem personelu, który ją dla Państwa przygotowuje.

Dacă aveți nevoie de această broșură într-o altă limbă sau într-un format accesibil,
vă rog să discutați cu un membru al personalului să se ocupe
de acest lucru pentru dumneavoastră

如果您需要本传单的其他语言版本或无障碍格式，请联系工作人员为您安排。

إذا احتجت إلى هذه النشرة بلغة أخرى، أو بتنسيق
يسهل الوصول إليه، يرجى التحدث إلى أحد الموظفين لترتيب ذلك لك.

What is apixaban and what is it used for?

This leaflet provides information about a medicine you have been prescribed called apixaban, including the risks and the benefits. If you have any queries or concerns, please speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Apixaban is an anticoagulant medicine. This type of medicine is sometimes called a blood thinning medication, although it does not actually make your blood thinner. Anticoagulants reduce the risk of blood clots developing and prevent an existing blood clot from growing.

Why have I been prescribed apixaban?

You have been diagnosed with a clot in the veins of your leg(s), deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or a clot in the blood vessels of the lungs, pulmonary embolism (PE). Apixaban is used to reduce your chance of developing new clots.

How do I take apixaban?

- Take it at the same time each day.
- You can take it with or without food.
- You do not need to avoid any particular food.

If you have been newly diagnosed with a blood clot, at first you need to take two 5mg (10mg) tablets twice a day about 12 hours apart. Take each dose at the same times each day for one week. After this, take one 5mg twice a day.

<u>At first</u>	<u>Then</u>
Morning: 	Morning: 
Evening: 	Evening: 
10 mg twice a day for one week	5mg twice a day

It is very important that you take apixaban as advised. Missing doses may increase the chance of the clot growing or new clots forming. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. But do not take double your dose to make up for a missed dose.

How long do I need to take apixaban for?

Some patients need to take it for between three and six months and then it is safe for them to stop. Some patients need to take apixaban long term. The team looking after you will decide how long you need to take apixaban for.

What happens if I need to take apixaban long term?

After you have taken apixaban for six months, your doctor will decide whether it is best for you to stay on apixaban long term. They will then decide what dose is most suitable for you, depending on the risk of you developing a new clot. The dose will be either 2.5mg or 5mg twice a day.

What are the risks?

Bleeding is a possible side effect of taking any anticoagulant and occasionally it can be serious. Serious bleeding affects one to three people out of 100.

Seek medical help straight away if you have bleeding, especially if you have any of the following:

- Coughing or vomiting blood.
- Black stools or blood in your stools.
- Severe, persistent headache, dizziness or weakness.
- Fall or injury to your head or face.
- Blood in your urine.
- Unexplained or severe bruising.
- Persistent nose bleeds.
- Other unexpected or uncontrollable bleeding.

If you have any concerns about these risks, your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will discuss these with you in more detail.

What are the benefits?

It cuts your risk of developing DVT or PE again and the complications caused by these conditions.

Are there any alternatives?

There are other anticoagulants you may be able to take. Your doctor, nurse or pharmacist will discuss these with you, if appropriate.

Do I need blood tests when taking apixaban?

You will have blood tests before you start apixaban and, if you stay on apixaban long term you will need at least a yearly blood test which will be performed by your GP.

Can I take other medicines with apixaban?

It is important to let the doctor, nurse or pharmacist who prescribes apixaban know all the other medicines you are currently taking. This includes any medicines you buy over the counter, because they might interfere with apixaban and affect how it works.

You should avoid anti-inflammatory medicines including ibuprofen as these can increase the risk of bleeding. You should also avoid aspirin unless you have been advised to continue by your doctor. If you are not able to use paracetamol, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice.

If you start a new medicine, please tell the doctor that you are taking apixaban.

If you are unsure about whether you can take a particular medicine with apixaban, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for advice.

What else do I need to know when taking apixaban?

Your risk of bleeding is increased, please take this into account before considering taking part in activities with a high risk of injury such as contact sports.

It is not known if apixaban is safe to use during pregnancy. If you become pregnant or plan to become pregnant, tell your doctor straight away.

To reduce your risks of bleeding during surgery, minor procedures or dental work, please tell your doctor or dentist that you are on apixaban. You may need to stop taking it for a short time.

The anticoagulation clinic will give you an alert card. Carry this in your wallet or purse to make sure people know you are taking an anticoagulant.

How do I find out more about apixaban?

Please ask your doctor, pharmacist, nurse or anticoagulation clinic for more information.

If you are being treated at Whiston hospital anticoagulation clinic, telephone: 0151 290 4176

Out of hours, contact 111 by phone or online.

How do I find out more about DVT or PE?

Please ask your doctor, pharmacist, nurse or anticoagulation clinic for more information.
You can also visit the Thrombosis UK website for further information: thrombosisuk.org/

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

PALS
Whiston Hospital,
Warrington Road,
Prescot,
Merseyside,
L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 430 1376

PALS
Southport Hospital
Town Lane
Southport
PR8 6PN
Telephone: 01704 704 703

Southport & Formby Hospital
Town Lane, Kew, Southport,
Merseyside, PR8 6PN
Telephone: 01704 547 471

Ormskirk Hospital
Dicconson Way, Wigan Road,
Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AZ
Telephone: 01695 577 111

St Helens Hospital
Marshalls Cross Road, St Helens,
Merseyside, WA9 3DA
Telephone: 01744 26633

Whiston Hospital
Warrington Road, Prescot,
Merseyside, L35 5DR
Telephone: 0151 426 1600