



Patient Information

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) in Adult Patients

What is it used for?

Rivaroxaban is used to prevent blood clots in the brain (stroke) in adults who have an abnormal heart beat called 'atrial fibrillation' and are considered to be at risk of stroke. It is also used to prevent and treat blood clots which cause deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE).

How the medicine works

Rivaroxaban is an anticoagulant medicine that helps to prevent blood from clotting. It does this by interfering with a substance in the body called Factor Xa which is involved in the development of blood clots.

How and when you should take your medicine

Rivaroxaban should be swallowed whole with water at the same time of day **with food**. There are no specific foods or drinks that you need to avoid. The dose and the length of treatment will depend on the reason you are taking rivaroxaban and also your own individual factors. Your doctor or nurse will advise you.

If you take Rivaroxaban **once** daily and you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember and then continue as normal the next day. Never take a double dose on the same day to make up for a missed dose. If you take Rivaroxaban **twice** daily and you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember but you may take both tablets together if necessary. Continue the next day taking it twice a day.

Possible side effects

The most common side effect of Rivaroxaban is bleeding. This can occur inside or outside the body, and may cause symptoms such as extreme tiredness, pale skin, headache, dizziness, breathlessness or chest pain depending on the severity. Other common side effects include indigestion, nausea and stomach pain.

Consult your doctor if any of these become troublesome.

If you experience any of the following, seek medical attention:

- Prolonged nose bleeds (more than 10 minutes)
- Blood in vomit, sputum, urine or stools or pass black stools.
- Severe or spontaneous bruising or unusual headaches.
- For women, heavy or increased bleeding during your period or any other vaginal bleeding.



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- If you cut yourself, apply firm pressure for at least 5 minutes with a clean dry dressing.
- Seek immediate attention if you are involved in a major physical trauma; suffer a significant blow to the head or are unable to stop bleeding. Dial 111 or 999 depending on the severity of your injury.

Other information

You should not take other anticoagulants with rivaroxaban except if your treatment is being switched to or from rivaroxaban. Always discuss with your healthcare provider whether you need to withhold rivaroxaban before a surgical or invasive procedure and check before you take other medicines including over the counter complementary remedies. Carry your patient alert card with you at all times. Talk to your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant or breast feed.

General Information about your medicines

This leaflet outlines essential information that you need if you have been prescribed this medicine. It outlines common side effects and also symptoms of serious side effects that require urgent medical attention. It does not list all side effects reported for this medicine and we recommend that you also read the package insert that is supplied with your medicine for a full list of side effects and drug interactions.

The following websites are also useful:

www.medicines.org.uk/guides and www.nhs.uk

Contact details for the anticoagulant service at GWH:

**Direct Line Monday-Friday 09.00-18.00 (with answerphone):
01793 604051**

Email: gwh.anticoag.clinic@nhs.net

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net

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