



## Apixaban ( Elixquis) in Adult Patients

### **What is it used for?**

Apixaban 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**

Apixaban 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**

Apixaban should be taken swallowed whole with water twice a day with or without food and is best taken at the same times each day.

If you forget to take your tablet, take it as soon as you remember and then take the next one at the normal time.

There are no specific foods or drinks that you need to avoid.

### **Possible side effects**

The most common side effect of apixaban 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. 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.
- 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.



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## Other information

You should not take other anticoagulants with apixaban except if your treatment is being switched to or from apixaban. Always discuss with your healthcare provider whether you need to withhold apixaban 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](http://www.medicines.org.uk/guides) and [www.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

### Document Control

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