

Apixaban (Eliquis®)

FAQ



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What is apixaban?

Apixaban is a “blood-thinner” or anticoagulant, which helps lower the chance of blood clots forming in your body.

Why do I need apixaban?

Apixaban is used for:

- Preventing strokes in people with atrial fibrillation
- Treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or blood clots in the legs
- Treatment of pulmonary embolism (PE) or blood clots in the lungs
- Preventing blood clots after knee or hip surgery

How do I take apixaban?

- Apixaban is taken twice a day. ALWAYS follow your label instructions.
- Take with or without food.
- Do NOT change your dose or stop taking apixaban unless your doctor tells you to.

What if I miss a dose?

- Take your missed dose as soon as you remember.
- NEVER take 2 doses together to make up for a missed dose.

Do I need to watch my diet while taking apixaban?

No, apixaban is not affected by your diet.

What does apixaban look like?



Can I take other medications while taking apixaban?

- Yes, but other medicines may affect how well apixaban works.
- Tell your doctor or pharmacist all the medicines you take. This includes prescription and over the counter medicines like vitamins and herbal supplements.

What if I'm going to have a surgery or other procedure?

- You may need to stop taking apixaban before surgeries or procedures to prevent bleeding.
- Make sure that all of your doctors know that you take apixaban.
- Inform the anticoagulation clinic of all upcoming procedures at least 1 week in advance so directions to safely skip apixaban can be provided.

What are the side effects with apixaban?

Risk of bleeding or bruising.

What are the signs of unusual bleeding?

Seek medical care immediately if you have:

- Severe or prolonged nose bleeds
- Red, dark, or cloudy urine
- Bloody stools or black, tarry stools
- Too much bleeding from minor cuts
- Too much menstrual bleeding
- Vomited blood (old blood may look like coffee grounds)
- Coughed up excessive amounts of blood
- Prolonged severe headaches, backaches, or stomach pain

What kind of monitoring is needed for apixaban?

Blood tests to monitor kidney function, liver function, and bleeding at least once a year.

Sources

Eliquis [package insert]. Princeton, NJ. Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company: 2012.

Apixaban. In: DRUGDEX® System [Internet database]. Greenwood Village, Colo: Thomson Reuters (Healthcare) Inc. Updated periodically.