

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

FAQ



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What is rivaroxaban?

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

Why do I need rivaroxaban?

You may need rivaroxaban to prevent blood clots or because you have had harmful blood clots.

Rivaroxaban is used for:

- Abnormal heart rhythms (atrial fibrillation)
- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) or blood clots in the legs
- Pulmonary embolism (PE) or blood clots in the lungs
- Major hip and knee surgeries

How do I take rivaroxaban?

- There are different ways to take rivaroxaban. **ALWAYS** follow your doctors directions.
- Do **NOT** change your dose or stop taking rivaroxaban unless your doctor tells you to.
- Stopping rivaroxaban may increase your risk for stroke or blood clots in certain situations.

What if I miss a dose of rivaroxaban?

If you take rivaroxaban 2 times a day:

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember on the same day.
- You may take both tablets at the same time to make up for the missed dose
- Take your next dose at your regularly scheduled time.

If you take rivaroxaban 1 time a day:

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember on the same day.
- Take your next dose at your regularly scheduled time.
- Do **NOT** double up on doses.

What does rivaroxaban look like?



10mg tablets



15mg tablets



20mg tablets

Can I take other medicines while taking rivaroxaban?

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

Do I have to take rivaroxaban with food?

- Yes, take rivaroxaban with a meal if you are using the 15mg or 20mg tablets. This will help the drug get absorbed into the body.
- You do NOT need to take rivaroxaban with food if you are using the 10mg tablets.

What do I do if I am scheduled for a procedure?

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

What are the side effects with rivaroxaban?

Risk of bleeding or bruising

What are 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 rivaroxaban?

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

Sources:

XARELTO (Rivaroxaban)[package insert]. Titusville, NJ: Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. 2011

Rivaroxaban. Clinical Pharmacology, Gold Standard, Inc. Tampa, FL. <http://www.clinicalpharmacology-ip.com/> June 27, 2013