



What is apixaban?

- Apixaban is an anticoagulant used to prevent the development of blood clots by blocking the formation of a clotting protein called thrombin.
- This is frequently prescribed for the following, but your doctor may have other reasons for starting apixaban :
 - After hip or knee replacement surgery to prevent blood clots forming in the veins of your leg(s) or in your lung(s).
 - For prevention of strokes or serious blood clots in people who have atrial fibrillation.
 - For the treatment of blood clots.
- Unlike warfarin, another anticoagulant, it does not require frequent blood tests for international normalized ratio (INR) monitoring while offering similar results in terms of efficacy.

How do I take apixaban?

- Apixaban is taken twice a day, one in the morning and one in the evening.
- It is preferred to take apixaban at 12 hour intervals at the same time each day.
- It can be taken with or without food.
- Consult your physician before you stop taking apixaban.
- If you forget a dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue with your remaining daily dose.
- Never take a double dose of apixaban to make up for a forgotten dose.

How should I store apixaban?

- Store at room temperature (15-30°C), away from excess heat and moisture.
- Keep medication away from children.
- Do not use apixaban after the expiry date.



What should I tell my doctor before I start taking apixaban?

- BEFORE using apixaban, talk to your doctor if:
 - You have an increased risk of bleeding or history of bleeding
 - You have liver or kidney problems.
 - You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
 - You are breast feeding or plan to breast feed during treatment.
 - You are going to have **any** surgery, including dental surgery.
 - You are taking any other prescription, over-the-counter medication or herbal product.

What are the side effects of apixaban?

- The most frequent side effect is easy bruising and prolonged bleeding.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms:
 - Allergic reactions
 - Blood in urine, stool and/or spit
 - Black tar-like stools
 - Bleeding, bruising, swelling or fluid leaking at your wound site after operation
 - Excessive bleeding (*including bleeding from your nose and gums*)
 - Prolonged or excessive menstrual period or vaginal bleeding
- For any other unexpected side effects, talk to your doctor.



How long do I have to take apixaban?

- Depending on your diagnosis, your doctor will help you decide how long you stay on apixaban.
- Do not stop taking apixaban without consulting your doctor.
- Continue to take apixaban as prescribed by your doctor even if you feel well.
- Apixaban should be discontinued for a short time before any surgical procedure. Your doctor will inform you when to stop and restart taking apixaban again after your procedure.

Could any of my medications interact with apixaban?

- Certain medications and herbal products can interact with apixaban, such as:
 - St John's Wort
 - Anticoagulants
 - Antiplatelet agents (eg. aspirin, clopidogrel)
 - NSAIDS (anti-inflammatory drugs)
 - Some medication for high blood pressure and heart problems
 - Some medication for infections, including fungal infections
 - Some medication to prevent epilepsy or seizures
 - Some antiviral medicines for HIV/AIDS
 - Some other prescription medications
- Be sure to inform your doctor of all the medications and herbal products you are taking or have taken recently.
- Before starting any new medications or over the counter products, consult your doctor or pharmacist.

What do I do in case of emergency/overdose?

- Contact your doctor immediately if you have taken more than the prescribed dose of apixaban.
- Symptoms of overdose may include: unusual bruising or bleeding; pink or brown urine; vomiting material that is bloody or looks like coffee grounds.
- In case of overdose, immediately call a doctor, hospital emergency department or local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 even if no symptoms are observed.

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