

Apixaban (Eliquis®)

To **reduce your bleeding and clotting risk**, it is important that you **attend follow-up appointments** with your provider and **have blood tests done** as your provider orders.

What is apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Apixaban is also called Eliquis®.
- Apixaban (Eliquis®) is used to reduce the risk of blood clots and stroke in people with an abnormal heart rhythm (known as **atrial fibrillation**), in people who have had a blood clot, or in people who have had orthopedic surgery.
 - Blood clots can block a blood vessel cutting off blood supply to the area.
 - Rarely, clots can break into pieces and travel in the bloodstream, lodging in the heart (causing a heart attack), the lungs (causing a pulmonary embolus), or in the brain (causing a stroke).
- If you were on warfarin (Coumadin®) before and you are starting apixaban (Eliquis®), **do not** continue taking warfarin. Apixaban (Eliquis®) replaces warfarin (Coumadin®).

Eliquis® tablets
5 mg and 2.5 mg



How should I take apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Take apixaban (Eliquis®) exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- Apixaban (Eliquis®) may be taken with or without food.
- If you miss a dose:
 - Take it as soon as you remember on the same day. Do not double a dose to make up for a missed dose.
- Do not stop taking apixaban (Eliquis®) suddenly without telling your

doctor. This can put you at risk of having a stroke or a blood clot.

- If you take too much apixaban (Eliquis®), call your doctor or anticoagulation service. If you are experiencing any bleeding which you cannot get to stop, go to the nearest emergency room.

How should I store apixaban (Eliquis®)?

Store this medication at room temperature in a dry area (avoid storing it in the bathroom).

What should I know about apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens your body's ability to clot. While you take apixaban (Eliquis®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can cause bleeding which can be serious. You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take apixaban (Eliquis®) and:
 - You are over 75 years old.
 - You have kidney problems.
 - You have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or recurs, or have a stomach ulcer.
 - You take other medications that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
 - Aspirin or products that contain aspirin
 - Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including ibuprofen and naproxen
 - Clopidogrel (Plavix®), prasugrel (Effient®), or ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
 - Any medicine that contains heparin

What are the potential side effects of apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it lessens your body's ability to clot. While you take apixaban (Eliquis®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- In some people, apixaban (Eliquis®) can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Get medical help right away if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
 - Chest pain or chest tightness
 - Swelling of your face or tongue
 - Trouble breathing or wheezing
 - Feeling dizzy or faint

When should I call my doctor or anticoagulation service?

Call your doctor or anticoagulation service if:

- You start or stop any medications, including over-the-counter medications or herbal supplements. These may affect the way apixaban works.
- You are having a surgery or procedure, as you may need to stop taking apixaban for a short period of time before your procedure. Do not stop taking apixaban (Eliquis®) without first talking with your doctor.
- You need a medication refill (let them know before you are out of apixaban so you do not run out)
- You are unable to afford (pay for) apixaban.
- You experience any unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
 - Unusual bleeding from the gums
 - Nose bleeds that happen often
 - Menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
 - Bruises that happen without a known cause, or that get larger

When should I get emergency medical help?

Call 911 immediately if you experience any of the following serious conditions:

- You experience any of the following signs and symptoms of bleeding:
 - Bleeding that is severe, or bleeding that you cannot control
 - Pink or brown urine
 - Red or black stools (that look like tar)
 - Coughing up blood or blood clots
 - Vomiting up blood, or if your vomit looks like “coffee grounds”
- You experience any of the following signs and symptoms of a stroke:
 - Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or sudden severe headache
 - Numbness or weakness in any limb (arm or leg)
 - Difficulty speaking or slurred speech
 - Drooping on one side of your face
- You experience any of the following signs and symptoms of blood clots:
 - Sudden severe shortness of breath, or chest pain
 - Swelling, redness, heat, or pain in any limb
- You have a serious fall or hit your head.

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