



Apixaban Therapy



Do not take apixaban if you are or think you are pregnant, or while breast feeding.

What is apixaban?

Apixaban is an anticoagulant (often called a blood thinner) used to treat or prevent blood clots:

- After hip or knee replacement surgery to prevent blood clots forming in your legs or in your lungs
- 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 blood tests for monitoring

Find out more at:
www.ThrombosisBC.ca



How do I take apixaban?

- Apixaban is taken twice a day about 12 hours apart.
- It should be taken at about same time each day, within an hour or so.
- It can be taken with or without food.
- 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.

Apixaban is an anticoagulant used to treat or prevent blood clots

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

- 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.

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VGH Thrombosis Clinic
Blackmore Pavilion, 6th Floor
855 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 1M9

Tel: 604.675.2481
www.ThrombosisBC.ca



Thrombosis Program
Vancouver Coastal Health, University of British Columbia

What are the side effects of apixaban?

- The most frequent side effect is easy bruising and bleeding that takes longer to stop.
- Tell your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms:
 - Allergic reactions (*rash, swelling, itchiness*)
 - 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.

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How long do I have to take apixaban?

- This depends on the reason for taking 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 and after 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?

- Apixaban might not be right for you if you are also taking any one of these:
 - St. John's wort
 - Antacids
 - Anti-platelet agents (*eg. aspirin, clopidogrel*)
 - Anti-inflammatory drugs (*eg. NSAIDs, naproxen*)
 - Some heart rhythm drugs (*eg. dronedarone*)
 - Some chemotherapy or cancer treatment drugs (*eg. doxorubicin, TKIs*)
 - Some drugs to prevent seizures (*eg. carbamazepine*)
 - Some antibiotics (*eg. clarithromycin*)
 - Some drugs to treat fungal infections (*eg. ketoconazole*)
 - Some anti-organ rejection drugs (*eg. cyclosporine*)
 - Some drugs to treat HIV/AIDS (*eg. ritonavir*)
 - 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.
- In case of overdose, immediately call a doctor, hospital emergency department or local poison control center at 1-800-222-1222 even if you don't have any symptoms.

