



Anticoagulation Management Service
Patient & Family Instructions
Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) is used to prevent blood clots from forming in your body. It is sometimes called a blood thinner. It is used to:

- reduce risk of stroke and blood clots in atrial fibrillation;
- treat blood clots in the veins of legs (deep vein thrombosis) or lungs (pulmonary embolism) and reduce risk of them happening again;
- help prevent blood clots following hip or knee replacement surgery

Do NOT STOP TAKING this medicine without talking to the doctor who prescribes it.

This drug is NOT for use in people with artificial heart valves.

If you have questions about or if you are experiencing side effects of rivaroxaban (Xarelto®), call your doctor.

Your doctor: _____ Telephone #: _____

HOW and WHEN to take rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

- Take your dose **daily with food**. **Follow the instructions provided by your doctor.** This medicine is available in different pill sizes, shapes and colors. Be sure you know your pill size, shape and dose instructions.
 - For atrial fibrillation, the dose for most patients is 20mg once daily **with food**
 - For treating blood clots, the dose for the *first 21 days* is 15mg mg **twice daily with food**, then take 20mg once **daily with food** for the remaining treatment period
 - For reducing the risk of blood clots from happening again after the initial treatment period, usually at least 6 months, the dose is 10 mg once daily **with or without food**
 - For preventing blood clots after hip or knee replacement surgery, the dose is 10mg once daily with or without food (35 days-hip, 12 days-knee)
 - The dose you take could be different depending on kidney function and other drugs you may take.

Do NOT stop taking your pills. Take them on time. Get refills on time. Otherwise, your risk of having a blood clot may increase.

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember on the same day. Tell your doctor if you miss any dose. Take your usual dose on the next day. **Do not** take two doses at once. *Exception: If you take rivaroxaban 15mg twice a day for blood clots in the veins of the leg or lung, you may take 2 doses at the same time to make up the missed dose.*

Missing doses increases the risk of having a blood clot.

- Talk to your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems since a change may be needed.
- If you need surgery, dental or medical procedure (especially spinal or epidural), talk to the doctor who ordered rivaroxaban. You may need to stop this medicine for a short time.

SIDE EFFECTS of rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

- This medicine may cause bleeding.
- Bleeding from cuts may take longer to stop. Bruising may happen more easily. This is normal.
- Some side effects may include: headache, muscle pain or spasm, feeling dizzy, itchy skin or an allergic reaction. Report any side effects that bother you to your doctor.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR or get emergency medical help by dialing 911 if you have:

- Symptoms of an allergic reaction such as chest pain or tightness, swelling in your face or tongue, trouble breathing, or feeling faint
- Blood coming from your mouth, nose or gums
- Blood or blood clots in your sputum (spit) after coughing
- For females, bleeding from your vagina or a menstrual flow heavier than normal
- Vomit that is bloody or looks like “coffee grounds”
- Red or black (tarry) stool
- Pink or dark brown urine
- Bruising that is worse than usual or happens for no reason at all
- Unusual headache or difficulty in thinking or speaking
- Any weakness or numbness on your face, arms or legs
- Unexpected pain and/or swelling (headache or joint pain for example)
- A bad fall or injury, especially if you hit your head

Important things to know when taking rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

- Tell all your doctors, dentists, and other health care providers that you take it.
- Kidney and liver problems can affect this drug. Tell the doctor prescribing rivaroxaban if you were told you have these problems. Blood tests may be needed from time to time to check this.
- When filling a new prescription or taking over-the-counter medicines or herbal products ask your pharmacist to make sure that it is safe to take with rivaroxaban.
- Some medicines may affect the way this medicine works. [examples: ketoconazole (*Nizoral*®), itraconazole (*Onmel*™, *Sporanox*®), ritonavir (*Norvir*®), carbamazepine (*Carbatrol*®, *Equetro*®, *Tegretol*®), phenytoin (*Dilantin*®), rifampin (*Rifater*®, *Rifamate*®, *Rimactane*®, *Rifadin*®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)]
- Some medicines taken with rivaroxaban may increase your risk of bleeding. [examples: aspirin, NSAIDs (*Motrin*®, *Advil*®), *Naprosyn*®), heparins, warfarin, clopidogrel bisulfate (*Plavix*®), prasugrel (*Effient*®)]
- Keep a list of all your medicines, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines and herbal products, to share with your doctors and other health care providers.

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) and Pregnancy/Breast feedings

- There are no adequate studies to tell us if it is safe during pregnancy
- It is very important to tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- It is not known if this medicine is passed through breast milk. It is recommended to stop this medicine or stop breast-feeding. **Before stopping this medicine, talk with your doctor.**

Note: Please contact Lynn Oertel, MS, NP-BC, CACP for questions about this instructional material. 6/5/2013, 01/17/2017, 1/30/2018, 7/25/2018

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