

SWITCHING FROM WARFARIN TO ELIQUIS® (APIXABAN)

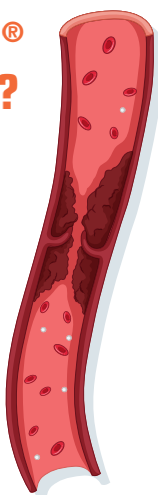


Please ensure that you read the patient information leaflet thoroughly before taking the medicine.

You have decided with your doctor to switch from warfarin to apixaban. ELIQUIS® contains the active substance apixaban and belongs to a group of medicines called anticoagulants. This medicine helps to prevent blood clots from forming by blocking Factor Xa, which is an important component of blood clotting

How to switch to ELIQUIS® (apixaban) from warfarin?

- Your doctor will tell you when to stop taking the medicine containing a vitamin K antagonist (e.g. warfarin).
- Your doctor needs to do blood-measurements
- Your doctor will instruct you when to start taking Eliquis.



How to take ELIQUIS® (apixaban)

The usual dose of apixaban is **5mg twice daily** - once in the morning and once in the evening. Certain groups of patients may be prescribed 2.5mg twice daily by their doctor. This medicine can be taken with or without food. Tablets may also be crushed (see Patient Information Leaflet).



Important information inside your pack of ELIQUIS® (apixaban)

You will find a Patient Information Leaflet together with a Patient Alert Card inside your pack of apixaban.

You should read the Patient Information Leaflet and complete the Patient Alert Card (or ask your doctor to do it).

The Patient Alert Card should be kept with you at all times. The Patient Alert Card explains the importance of taking apixaban regularly as instructed by your doctor, lists the main signs and symptoms of bleeding and when to seek medical attention.



How long to take ELIQUIS® (apixaban) for?

The length of treatment with apixaban can vary. You should **always follow your doctor's instructions** and continue to take your medication for as long as your doctor has told you to do so.



Bristol Myers Squibb™



Eliquis®
apixaban

What should I do if I miss a dose of ELIQUIS® (apixaban)?

Take the medicine as soon as you remember and then take the next tablet of apixaban at the usual time, then continue as normal.

If you are not sure what to do, or have missed more than one dose, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.



What should I do if I take too much ELIQUIS® (apixaban)?

Tell your doctor immediately if you have taken more than your prescribed dose of apixaban.

Take the medicine pack with you, even if there are no tablets left. If you take more apixaban than recommended, you may have an increased risk of bleeding.

Things to be aware of when taking ELIQUIS® (apixaban)

Inform your doctor and dentist that you are taking apixaban, or any other medicines you are taking, including medicines you have bought yourself over the counter, if you are having any surgical or dental procedures. You may need to reduce or temporarily stop taking apixaban.



As with all anticoagulants, when taking this medicine it is important that you look out for any signs of bleeding and seek medical advice immediately if any signs of bleeding occur.



You should not take apixaban if you are allergic to any of the ingredients, if you are bleeding excessively, if you have (or are thought to have) a condition that increases the risk of serious bleeding



In addition, this medicine is not recommended in other instances such as pregnancy, breast feeding, in patients with prosthetic heart valves (with and without atrial fibrillation), and in patients taking certain other medications



Healthy living when taking ELIQUIS® (apixaban)

Diet: eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and avoid fatty meats and too much processed food to help control your cholesterol levels.

Exercise: regular physical activity helps in weight control, but also helps you to maintain a positive outlook.



GETTING SUPPORT

Irish Heart Foundation
T: +353 (0)1 668 5001
W: irishheart.ie

Croí, (Heart and Stroke Centre)
T: +353 (0)91 544 310
W: croi.ie

Thrombosis IRL
T: +353 (0)87 363 4828
W: thrombosisireland.ie



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