

What are Anticoagulants?

Anticoagulants are medicines that prevent the blood from clotting as quickly as normal. Some people call anticoagulants blood thinners. The blood is not actually made any thinner – it just takes longer to clot whilst you are taking anticoagulants.

What is Edoxaban?

Edoxaban is an anticoagulant medicine that helps to prevent blood from clotting. It does this by interfering with a substance in the body called Factor Xa which is involved in the development of blood clots.

Edoxaban has been licenced in adults to:

- ◆ Prevent blood clots in the brain (stroke) and other blood vessels in the body if you have a form of irregular heart rhythm called nonvalvular atrial fibrillation and at least one additional risk factor.
- ◆ Treat blood clots in the veins of the legs (deep vein thrombosis) and in the blood vessels in the lungs (pulmonary embolism), and to prevent blood clots from re-occurring in the blood vessels in the legs and or lungs.
- ◆ Edoxaban has also been approved by the National Institute for health and care Excellence (NICE) and accepted by the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) for both the above

Can anyone take Edoxaban?

NO, not everyone can take Edoxaban. You should discuss the benefits and risks of taking this drug with your health care professional.

How is Edoxaban different from Warfarin?

Both Edoxaban and Warfarin are anticoagulants. Edoxaban is a factor Xa inhibitor and Warfarin is a vitamin K antagonist. This means that they work on different parts of the clotting system. Edoxaban is a fixed daily dose. With Warfarin the dose may vary from day to day.

Do I need to have regular blood tests with Edoxaban?

NO, Edoxaban does not need regular blood tests to monitor your clotting levels (INR test). However you should have a blood test to monitor your kidney function before you start taking Edoxaban. Further blood tests may be required if your doctor feels they are necessary.

What is the dose of Edoxaban?

The usual dose for Edoxaban is 60MG and it is taken once a day. The dose may be reduced if your kidney function is impaired.

How should I take Edoxaban?

Edoxaban should be swallowed whole, preferably with water. It can be taken with or without food.

Do I need to follow a special diet for Edoxaban?

NO, Edoxaban does not have any special dietary instructions or requirements.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

It is important to remember to take it every day. If you miss a dose take the missed dose as soon as you remember on that day. Take your next dose the following day and stay on your once-daily schedule. Do not take two tablets the next day to make up the missed dose.

If you have trouble remembering to take your tablets speak to your doctor or nurse—they may be able to advise you on strategies to help you remember.

Does Edoxaban have any interactions with other medications?

YES, there are some medications that may interact with Edoxaban, however these are far fewer than Warfarin. Talk to your health care professional about any other medications that you are taking to see if it will interact before you start Edoxaban, and always let them know when you start or stop other medications. Always tell the pharmacist that you are taking Edoxaban if you are buying over the counter medicines. A patient alert card is present in every pack of Edoxaban which you can carry with you and show if required.

What are the side effects of Edoxaban?

Like all medicines, Edoxaban can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Like other similar medicines (medicines to reduce blood clotting), Edoxaban may cause bleeding which can potentially be life-threatening. In some cases the bleeding may not be obvious.

When bleeding is not obvious (maybe internal) the signs can be:

- ◆ Exceptional weakness
- ◆ Tiredness
- ◆ Paleness
- ◆ Dizziness
- ◆ Headache
- ◆ Unexplained swelling

What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

Apixaban is not recommended during pregnancy. Women who are taking Apixaban should discuss plans for future pregnancy with their doctor before they conceive. If there is a chance that you could become pregnant, use a reliable contraceptive while you are taking the anticoagulant

If your period is 1 week overdue and you think you may be pregnant, do a pregnancy test. If the pregnancy test is positive, you should contact your doctor urgently. If the test is negative, re-test every 3 days until either the period arrives or the test is positive.

Breastfeeding is not recommended while taking Apixaban. Alternative anticoagulants can be used when you are breastfeeding

If you experience any bleeding event that does not stop by itself or if you experience the following signs of bleeding, consult your doctor immediately.

- ◆ Bloody black or tarry stools.
- ◆ Blood in the urine
- ◆ Coughing up or vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds
- ◆ Nose bleeds
- ◆ Bleeding from your gums
- ◆ Unusual or extensive bruising

What if I need to have surgery or a procedure?

You should tell anyone who is treating you that you are taking Edoxaban. If you need surgery or a procedure, make sure that you tell the doctor or surgeon well before the surgery that you are using this medication. If you need to have an anaesthetic for a medical procedure or surgery, you may need to stop taking Edoxaban for a short time. The doctor will tell you if you need to stop taking it and when to do so, and when to start taking it again.

Is there a reversal agent for Edoxaban?

At the moment there is no reversal agent for Edoxaban although there are available medicines that can reverse the effects of Edoxaban with 30 minutes in an emergency.

If you have a bleeding problem or need to have a surgery very quickly, the doctor will stop you taking Edoxaban and will stop the bleeding in other ways.

Carrying a medical identification card.

It is always advisable to carry some sort of identification, so that in the event of you being unable to, it will let others know that you are taking an anticoagulant. The manufacturer of the drug provides an alert card in every pack of Edoxaban. The manufacturer has also made available a smartphone app which can help remind you to take all your medications. There are also a variety of items available to buy that tell people that you are taking an anticoagulant including credit card size alert cards and medic alert bracelets and necklaces.

**NOT STOP TAKING THIS MEDICATION
WITHOUT FIRST TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR.**

This leaflet is for general information only
and is not a substitute for medical advice.



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Patient Information Leaflet



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