

Tell your health care professional if you experience any of the following :

- ◆ Bloody black or tarry bowel motions
- ◆ Blood in the urine
- ◆ Coughing up or vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds
- ◆ Nose bleeds (that last longer than 10 minutes)
- ◆ Bleeding from your gums
- ◆ Unusual or extensive bruising

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

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

Please seek immediate attention if you suffer major trauma or a blow to the head or unable to stop bleeding

What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

Rivaroxaban is not recommended during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Women who are taking Rivaroxaban, 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.

Is there a reversal agent for Rivaroxaban?

At the moment there is no reversal agent for Rivaroxaban. However Rivaroxaban has a shorter duration of action compared to Warfarin. This means it does not stay in your body for as long as Warfarin. If you have a bleeding problem or need to have surgery very quickly, the doctor will stop you taking Rivaroxaban and will stop the bleeding other ways.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IN CONTACT SPORTS?

If you are involved in contact sport, discuss this with your doctor or DOAC Clinic.

CAN I CONSUME ALCOHOL?

It is recommended that you do not exceed the recommended upper limit of 2 standard drinks per day. 1 standard drink =
1 glass or half pint of beer, lager or stout
1 small glass of wine (100mls)
1 single measure of spirits, e.g. whiskey or vodka or gin.

Carry your anticoagulant alert card with you and wear an alert bracelet. Show your alert card to your Doctor, pharmacist, dentist or nurse at each visit

Please refer to <http://www.hpra.ie/homepage/medicines/medicines-information/find-a-medicine/Rivaroxaban> to get further information on this drug.

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



Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)

Patient Information Leaflet



Email: info@thrombosisireland.ie
www.thrombosisireland.ie
Phone: 087 363 4828
Mon. – Fri. 9am – 1pm

What is Rivaroxaban?

Rivaroxaban 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.

Rivaroxaban has been licenced in adults for:-

- ◆ Prevention of blood clots in patients who have knee or hip replacement surgery
- ◆ Treatment and prevention of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE)
- ◆ Prevention of stroke in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation
- ◆ Rivaroxaban with Aspirin alone or with Aspirin plus Clopidogrel for the treatment of acute coronary syndrome (ACS), coronary artery disease (CAD) or peripheral arterial disease (PAD).

Can anyone take Rivaroxaban?

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

Do I need to have regular blood tests with Rivaroxaban?

No, Rivaroxaban does not need regular blood tests to monitor your clotting levels (INR test).

However you should have a blood test to monitor your kidney and liver function before you start taking Rivaroxaban and then once a year or as directed by the doctor.

What is the dose of Rivaroxaban?

Rivaroxaban is normally taken once a day. However for the treatment of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism the dose is twice a day for the first three weeks and then once a day thereafter.

When used to treat acute coronary

syndrome, coronary artery disease or peripheral arterial disease the dose is twice daily. You should take the tablet at the same time each day with food.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Rivaroxaban has a shorter duration of action compared to warfarin. This means it does not stay in your body for as long as Warfarin, so 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. If you have trouble remembering to take your tablets speak to your doctor or nurse about the many aids that you can use to help you remember.

Exceptions to this rule: When you are taking two doses a day during the first three weeks of being treated for deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, if you miss the morning dose you can take it together with your dose in the evening.

Do I need to follow a special diet for Rivaroxaban?

No, Rivaroxaban does not have any special dietary instructions or requirements. However, foods such as grapefruit or grapefruit juice may affect the absorption of some drugs including anticoagulants. Rivaroxaban is to be taken with food.

What about taking other medicines?

Your medicines will be reviewed before you start Rivaroxaban and any necessary changes will be made.

As other medicines may interact with Rivaroxaban it is important you check with your pharmacist or doctor before starting any additional medicines or herbal remedies or before stopping any existing ones.

- ◆ Avoid aspirin and aspirin containing medicines unless prescribed by your doctor
- ◆ Avoid non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen (Nurofen) which is an available over the counter (OTC) medication
- ◆ Paracetamol and codeine based pain killers are acceptable.
- ◆ It is advisable to purchase all medicines from a pharmacy and inform them you are taking Rivaroxaban

Please let other healthcare professionals treating you know that you are taking Rivaroxaban, this includes anyone who prescribes medication for you.

Please inform any healthcare professional who plans to carry out a procedure or surgery for example, your dentist, surgeon, well in advance of the date of procedure/surgery, that you are taking this medication.

If you need to have an anaesthetic for a medical procedure or surgery, you may need to stop taking Rivaroxaban 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.

What are the side effects of Rivaroxaban ?

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

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.