

# Apixaban

**Names** The generic drug name is apixaban (a pix' a ban). Eliquis® is the brand name. There may be other brand names for this medication.

**How is Apixaban Taken?**

- Apixaban is a tablet that you swallow. It is usually taken once or twice a day. You can take it with or without food.
- Take it at around the same times every day.
- Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully; take it exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it. Do not take it more often.
- If you can't swallow the tablets, crush them, and mix with water, apple juice, or applesauce. Swallow the mixture right after you make it.
- If you have a feeding tube, talk to your doctor about whether you can take apixaban through the tube. discuss it with your doctor.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. **Do not take a double dose.**

**What is the Purpose of this Drug and How Does it Work?**

Apixaban is used to help prevent blood clots such as deep vein thrombosis (DVT; a blood clot, usually in the leg) and pulmonary embolism (PE; a blood clot in the lung). It is also used to prevent strokes in people who have atrial fibrillation (Afib) that is not caused by heart valve disease.

Apixaban is in a class of medications called factor Xa inhibitors. It works by blocking the action of one of the natural substances that helps blood clots to form.

**What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?**

Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to apixaban or have any allergies.
- have an artificial heart valve
- have or have ever had any type of bleeding problem, antiphospholipid syndrome (a condition that causes blood clots), or kidney or liver disease.
- are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.

**This drug may interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal or diet supplements you take.**

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Bleeding/bruising more easily
- Skin rash
- Upset stomach/nausea
- Anemia (fatigue, weakness, pale skin, dizziness, fainting)

When Should I Call the Doctor?

**Call your doctor immediately if you have:**

- unusual bruising or bleeding: bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)
- signs of infection: Fever of **100.4°F (38°C)** or higher, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness at any other wound or skin irritation
- loss of control over your bladder or bowels
- dizziness, weakness, feeling like you might pass out
- numbness, tingling, or muscle weakness (especially in your legs and , or feet) or loss of movement in any part of your body

Note: Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room if you have signs of a severe allergic reaction – difficulty breathing; swelling in face, mouth, tongue, or throat; heart palpitations; chest tightness; weak, rapid pulse; flushing; nausea/vomiting; hives

What Else Should I Know

- Do not stop taking apixaban without talking to your doctor because your risk of a blood clot may increase.
- If you are having surgery or dental surgery, tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking apixaban.
- Keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory.
- Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed. Store it away from light, excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom).
- Apixaban prevents blood from clotting normally, so it may take longer than usual for you to stop bleeding.
- If you have epidural or spinal anesthesia or a spinal puncture while taking a "blood thinner" such as apixaban, you are at risk for collection of blood in the spinal column that could cause you to become paralyzed. Be sure all your doctors know all the medications you are taking, particularly any medication, vitamin, or supplement that affects blood clotting.
- If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.