

Rivaroxaban

Names

- The generic drug name is rivaroxaban (riv'' a rox' a ban). Xarelto® is the brand name. There may be other brand names for this medication.

How is Rivaroxaban Taken?

- Rivaroxaban is a tablet that you swallow.
- How often you take it, and for how long, will depend on your doctor and why they are prescribing it for you. They will also tell you whether you need to take it with food.
- Take it at around the same time(s) 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 rivaroxaban through the tube. discuss it with your doctor.
- If you take rivaroxaban once a day, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it on that day. Resume your regular dosing schedule the next day. If you take rivaroxaban twice a day, your doctor will tell you what to do if you miss a dose.

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

Rivaroxaban is used to treat 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 a recurrence of a blood clot. It may be used to help prevent strokes in people who have atrial fibrillation (Afib) that is not caused by heart valve disease.

Rivaroxaban is in a class of medications called factor Xa inhibitors. It works by blocking by decreasing the clotting ability of the blood.

What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?

Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to rivaroxaban or have any allergies
- have heavy bleeding anywhere in your body that cannot be stopped
- have or have ever had any type of bleeding problem or kidney or liver disease
- have an artificial heart valve
- are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- are over age 75. Discuss the risks and benefits of taking rivaroxaban.

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 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 difficulty breathing; swelling in face, mouth, tongue, or throat; heart palpitations; chest tightness; weak, rapid pulse; flushing; and nausea/vomiting. These may be signs of a severe allergic reaction.

What Else Should I Know

- Do not stop taking rivaroxaban without talking to your doctor because your risk of a blood clot may increase.
- Having surgery? Tell the doctor or dentist that you are taking rivaroxaban.
- 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).
- On rivaroxaban, it may take longer than usual for you to stop bleeding.
- If you have epidural or spinal anesthesia or a spinal puncture, you are at risk for blood collecting in the spinal column, which can cause paralysis. Be sure all your doctors know all your medications, particularly if they affect blood clotting.
- If you have any questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.