

# Fondaparinux

## Names

The generic drug name is fondaparinux (fon'' da par' in ux ). Arixtra® is the brand name. There may be other brand names for this medication.

## How is Fondaparinux Taken?

- Fondaparinux is a liquid that is injected subcutaneously (just under the skin) in the lower stomach area.
- Before you use fondaparinux injection yourself the first time, read the Patient Information that comes with it. This information includes directions for how to use and inject fondaparinux prefilled safety syringes.
- Each syringe has enough medication in it for one shot. Do not use the syringe and needle more than one time. Your doctor, pharmacist, or healthcare provider will tell you how to dispose of used needles and syringes safely.
- It is usually given one time a day for 5 to 9 days or sometimes for up to about 1 month.
- Use fondaparinux injection at around the same time every day.
- Follow the directions on your prescription label carefully. Use fondaparinux injection exactly as directed.
- Do not inject more or less of it or inject it more often than prescribed by your doctor. Do not mix in other medications or solutions.
- If you use fondaparinux at home, you can inject yourself or have a friend or relative give the injection. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to show you or the person who will be injecting the medication how to inject it.

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

Fondaparinux 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). Fondaparinux is in a class of medications called factor Xa inhibitors. It works 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 fondaparinux or have any allergies
- weigh 110 pounds or less, have bleeding or a bleeding problem
- have endocarditis, a low platelet count, or kidney disease
- have or have ever had stomach ulcers, high blood pressure, stroke, TIA (ministroke), eye disease due to diabetes, or liver disease
- have recently had brain, eye, or spinal surgery
- 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?

- rash, itching, bruising, or bleeding at the injection site
- dizziness
- confusion
- pale skin
- blisters on skin
- sleep problems: difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep

When Should I Call the Doctor?

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

- muscle weakness, numbness or tingling (especially in your legs), or you can't move your legs
- 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/tenderness at a wound

**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/or nausea/vomiting. These may be signs of a severe allergic reaction.

What Else Should I Know

- Store your medication only as directed by your doctor and out of reach of children. Make sure you understand how to store your medication properly.  
**Do not freeze fondaparinux injection.**
- Having surgery? Tell the doctor or dentist you take fondaparinux.
- Keep all doctor and lab appointments. Tell the lab you are taking fondaparinux.
- 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", 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.