



Anticoagulation UK

LIST OF ANTICOAGULANTS

Apixaban

Apixaban (Eliquis) is an oral anticoagulant medicine that is used for the prevention of blood clots and prevention of stroke.

Apixaban works by preventing your blood from clotting quickly or as effectively as normal. It does this by blocking a substance in your blood that is involved in the development of blood clots, called factor Xa.

Apixaban does not require monitoring with regular blood tests although you may still require a blood test to check kidney and liver function is satisfactory before starting treatment and at least once a year thereafter. Your doctor will tell you how often this is needed.

In 2011 and 2012, SMC and NICE respectively recommended Apixaban as an option for the prevention of venous thromboembolism in adults after elective hip or knee surgery (TA245)

In 2013, The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) recommended Apixaban for preventing stroke and blood clots for people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation with one or more risk factors. (TA275)

In 2015, NICE issued guidance (TA 341) for Apixaban for the treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism

Dabigatran

Dabigatran etexilate (Pradaxa) is a type of oral anticoagulant medicine that is used for the prevention of blood clots and prevention of stroke.

Dabigatran is a direct thrombin inhibitor – a type of medicine that lowers the chance of blood clots forming in your body by blocking thrombin, the blood's central clotting agent. This means it can be used to prevent blood clots from forming in veins and arteries in the legs, lungs, brain or heart.

Dabigatran does not require monitoring with regular blood tests although you will still require a blood test to check that your kidneys are working properly (renal function) as the medication is removed (excreted) from the body through the

kidneys. This should be at least once a year. Your doctor will tell you how often this is needed.

In 2008, The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) and Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) recommended Dabigatran etexilate as an option for the primary prevention of venous thromboembolic events in adults who have undergone total hip or knee replacement surgery. (TA157)

In 2011 and 2012 respectively, NICE and SMC recommended Dabigatran etexilate as an option for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (not caused by heart valve problems). (TA249)

In 2014, NICE and SMC recommended Dabigatran etexilate as an option for the treatment and secondary prevention of deep vein thrombosis and/or pulmonary embolism. (TA237)

Edoxaban

Edoxaban (Lixiana EU) is an oral anticoagulant medicine that is used for the prevention of blood clots and prevention of stroke.

Edoxaban is licensed in the UK for patients diagnosed with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (not caused by heart valve problems).

Edoxaban is an anticoagulant that directly inhibits factor Xa, which is a key component in the formation of blood clots.

In 2015, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) issued guidance for Edoxaban to be used to prevent stroke and systemic embolism in people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (TA 355) and for treating and for preventing deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. (TA 354)

Rivaroxaban

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) is an oral anticoagulation medicine that is used to prevent blood clots following hip or knee surgery, for treatment and prevention of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and Pulmonary Embolism (PE) and as a possible treatment to prevent stroke and blood clots embolism for people with non-valvular atrial fibrillation (not caused by heart valve problems).

Rivaroxaban works by preventing your blood from clotting quickly or as effectively as normal. It does this by blocking a substance in your blood that is involved in the development of blood clots, called factor Xa.

Rivaroxaban does not require monitoring with regular blood tests although you may still require a blood test before starting treatment and then at least once a year to check that the kidneys are working properly (renal function) as the medication is excreted primarily through the kidneys. Your doctor will tell you how often this is needed.

In 2009, NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) recommended Rivaroxaban as an option for prevention of venous thromboembolism in adults having elective total hip or total knee replacement surgery (TA 170).

In 2012, NICE recommended Rivaroxaban as an option for the prevention of stroke and systemic embolism in people with non valvular atrial fibrillation with one or more risk factors (TA 256)

In 2012, NICE recommended Rivaroxaban as an option for treating DVT and PE after a diagnosis of acute deep vein thrombosis in adults (TA 261)

In 2013, NICE recommended Rivaroxaban for acute symptomatic pulmonary embolism with or without symptomatic deep vein thrombosis and the prevention of recurrent VTE events (TA561)

In 2016 NICE recommended Rivaroxaban for preventing adverse outcomes after acute management of acute coronary syndrome. (TA335)

Warfarin

Warfarin is an oral anticoagulant medicine that is used to prevent and treat blood clots. It is a vitamin K antagonist. The blood needs vitamin K to be able to clot and warfarin slows the production of vitamin K in the body which increases the time it takes for your blood to clot.

Warfarin has to be monitored regularly and this is done by blood tests to check INR (international normalised ratio) levels. Monitoring usually takes place in anticoagulation clinics in hospital, at the GP surgery, Pharmacy or community setting. People on warfarin can also self-monitor their INR level.

Low molecular weight heparin and heparin

Heparins are an injectable anticoagulant that is used to treat or to prevent blood clots.

Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) and standard unfractionated heparin are two types of heparin commonly used as anticoagulants to treat blood clotting, and given as a preventative treatment when patients have had certain types of surgery. It is also used to treat and prevent cancer associated thrombosis (CAT).

LMWH is usually given as a subcutaneous injection and can normally be administered by the individual or their carer/healthcare professional without the need for hospitalisation and monitoring

LMWH can be given to pregnant women who may be assessed at a higher risk of developing blood clots. It can also provide a heparin 'bridge' to protect patients who may have to stop taking other anticoagulants when having surgery or other procedures.

Standard (unfractionated) heparin can be given as an intravenous injection into the vein, or by an intravenous infusion (drip) or a subcutaneous injection under the skin normally in the tummy area.

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