

## **Rivaroxaban - Xarelto**

- Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours. If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

Rivaroxaban is a medicine which is used in a number of conditions –

- Rivaroxaban is used to prevent strokes in patients with irregular heartbeats known as atrial fibrillation (AF).
- Rivaroxaban is used to prevent blood from clotting after hip or knee replacement surgery.
- Rivaroxaban is used in the treatment of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which are usually clots in the veins of the leg and to prevent recurrence of deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Do not share your medicine with other people. It may not be suitable for them and may harm them. The pharmacy label on your medicine tells you how much medicine you should take. It also tells you how often you should take your medicine. This is the dose that you and your prescriber have agreed you should take. You should not change the dose of your medicine unless you are told to do so by your prescriber.

If you feel that the medicine is making you unwell or you do not think it is working, then talk to your prescriber.

### **Whether this medicine is suitable for you**

Rivaroxaban is not suitable for everyone and some people should never use it. Other people should only use it with special care. It is important that the person prescribing this medicine knows your full medical history.

Your prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all if you:

- are allergic or sensitive to or have had a reaction to rivaroxaban
- are bleeding
- are pregnant or are breast-feeding
- are prone to bleeding
- have certain eye problems
- have high blood pressure which is not well controlled
- have kidney problems
- have liver problems and have problems with blood clotting
- have or have had bleeding problems
- have recently had a bleed in the brain or spine
- have recently had brain, spine or eye surgery
- have recently had or are about to have a procedure which involves the insertion of a needle into the spinal cord
- have risk factors for developing gastrointestinal ulcer

Furthermore the prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all for someone under 18 years of age.

**Alcohol:** There are no known interactions between alcohol and rivaroxaban.

**Diet:** Medicines can interact with certain foods. In some cases, this may be harmful and your prescriber may advise you to avoid certain foods. In the case of Rivaroxaban there are no specific

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foods that you must exclude from your diet when taking Rivaroxaban

### **Driving and operating machinery**

Rivaroxaban could affect your ability to drive or operate machinery. You should see how this medicine affects you before you judge whether you are safe to drive or operate machinery. If you are in any doubt about whether you should drive or operate machinery, talk to your prescriber.

**You must not take Rivaroxaban during pregnancy.** If you could become pregnant, you must use effective contraception. It is very important that you seek urgent medical advice if you become pregnant or think you have become pregnant while taking this medicine.

If you are planning to become pregnant, you should discuss your personal circumstances with your doctor so that together you can make a decision about what treatment you may need during your pregnancy.

### **Breast-feeding**

You should not take rivaroxaban if you are breast feeding.

### **Taking other medicines**

If you are taking more than one medicine they may interact with each other. At times your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact in other cases this may not be appropriate.

Your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact, if it is believed that the benefits of taking the medicines together outweigh the risks. In such cases, it may be necessary to alter your dose or monitor you more closely.

Tell your prescriber the names of all the medicines that you are taking so that they can consider all possible interactions. This includes all the medicines which have been prescribed by your GP, hospital doctor, dentist, nurse, health visitor, midwife or pharmacist. You must also tell your prescriber about medicines which you have bought over the counter without prescriptions.

### **The following medicines may interact with Rivaroxaban:**

Aspirin, carbamazepine, clarythromycin, clopidogrel, enoxaparin, erythromycin, fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole, naproxen, phenobarbital, phenytoin, posaconazole, rifampicin, ritonavir, voriconazole

If you are taking Rivaroxaban and one of the above medicines or types of medicines, make sure your prescriber knows about it.

### **Complementary preparations and vitamins**

Medicines can interact with complementary preparations and vitamins.

Make sure you tell your prescriber the names of all the complementary preparations and vitamins that you are taking or are planning to take.

Rivaroxaban also interacts with St. John's Wort

### **How to take your medicine**

Some medicines have specific instructions about how to take them. This is because they work better when taken correctly. These instructions can include getting the right dose and special instructions for preparing the medicine.

Specific information on how to take Rivaroxaban can be found in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with this medicine or on the medicine label. Alternatively, you can request information about how to take your medicine from your doctor or pharmacist.

If you are having problems taking this form of Rivaroxaban, you should talk to your prescriber or pharmacist. They may be able to give you advice on other ways to take your medicine or other preparations that are easier for you to take.

### **When to take your medicine**

Some medicines work best if they are taken at a specific time of day. Getting the most benefit from your medicine can also be affected by what you eat, when you eat and the times at which you take other medicines.

Specific information on when to take Rivaroxaban can be found in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with this medicine or on the medicine label. You can also ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about when to take your medicine.

### **Taking too much of your medicine**

Taking extra doses of some medicines can be harmful. In some cases even one extra dose can cause you problems. If you take extra doses of your medicine, you must get medical advice immediately. You may need a test to assess the effect of taking extra doses. This is because the effects of taking too much medicine are very complex so it is very important that you seek medical advice.

Contact your prescriber, pharmacist, anticoagulant clinic or NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 for advice. Make sure you take all of your medicine containers with you if you are advised to go to hospital.

### **Stopping your medicine**

If you are not having any problems with this medicine, do not stop taking it, even if you feel better, unless you have completed the course or you are advised to stop taking it by your prescriber. If you are in any doubt, contact your prescriber, pharmacist or specialist clinic.

### **Looking after your medicine**

The instructions on how you should keep your medicine are on the pharmacy label. It is a good idea to keep your medicine in the original container. This will help to keep your medicine in the best condition and also allow you to check the instructions. Do not take the medicine if the packaging appears to have been tampered with or if the medicine shows any signs of damage. Make sure that the medicine is out of the sight and reach of children.

Specific information on how to look after Rivaroxaban can be found in the Patient Information Leaflet that comes with this medicine or on the medicine label. Alternatively, you can request information about how to look after your medicine from your doctor or pharmacist.

You must not take the medicine after the expiry date shown on the packaging. If you have any unused medicine, return it to your pharmacist who will dispose of it safely.

### **Side-effects**

Some side-effects may be serious while others may only be a mild inconvenience. Everyone's reaction to a medicine is different. It is difficult to predict which side-effects you will have from taking a particular medicine, or whether you will have any side-effects at all. The important thing is to tell your prescriber or pharmacist if you are having problems with your medicine.

**SIDE EFFECTS:**

**Common:** More than 1 in 100 people who take Rivaroxaban

- bleeding including nose bleeds, bleeding in the stomach or bowel, bleeding into the brain, bleeding from the gums, eyes or muscles, serious bruising, coughing blood, blood in vomit or urine.  
Seek medical advice if you get bleeding from anywhere
- fever
- nausea
- swelling of the hands or feet called oedema

**Uncommon:** More than 1 in 1000 people who take Rivaroxaban

- blood problems
- constipation
- diarrhoea
- dry mouth
- faster heart rate
- feeling dizzy
- gastrointestinal pain
- headaches
- indigestion
- itching
- kidney problems
- low blood pressure
- pain of the extremities
- tiredness
- vomiting
- weakness
- wound secretions
- skin rash or rashes

**Rare:** More than 1 in 10,000 people who take Rivaroxaban

- dermatitis
- fainting or brief loss of consciousness
- general feeling of being unwell
- liver problems
- urticaria

The frequency of the following side-effects is unknown

- breathing difficulties
- chest pain
- circulation problems
- compartment syndrome
- hypersensitivity reactions
- jaundice
- paleness
- shock
- swelling

If you feel unwell or if you have concerns about a side-effect, you will need to seek advice.

If you feel very ill, get medical help straight away.

This leaflet is written by Heart of England NHS Trust Haematology team.

**Contact us**                      **Heartlands Hospital or Solihull Hospital**  
**Monday – Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm**  
**Anticoagulation Office: Tel: 0121 424 1706**

**Outside of normal working hours**

**Go to the nearest Accident and Emergency Department (if unwell, see above for details).**

**Additional sources of Information**

Contact NHS Direct Telephone: 0845 4647 Or visit them on the Internet <http://nhsdirect.nhs.uk>

**Please use the space below to write down any questions that you want to ask:**