

# APIXABAN

## ALSO KNOWN AS: ELIQUIS®

## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

### WHAT IS APIXABAN?

- Apixaban is a blood thinner or anticoagulant. Anticoagulants help treat and prevent blood clots.



### YOU ARE TAKING APIXABAN:

- To help prevent stroke because you have atrial fibrillation
- To help treat the blood clot in your leg (deep vein thrombosis or DVT) and/or blood clot in your lung (Pulmonary Embolism or PE)
- To help prevent DVT or PE after hip or knee surgery
- To help prevent another DVT or PE if you already had one

### YOUR DOSE OF APIXABAN IS:

- Atrial fibrillation: 5 mg twice a day (2.5 mg twice a day for some people)
- Prevention of DVT or PE after hip or knee replacement: 2.5 mg twice a day
- Treatment of DVT or PE: 10 mg twice a day for 1 week, followed by 5 mg twice a day for at least 3 months
- Prevention of DVT or PE: 2.5 mg twice a day (5 mg twice a day for some people)

### PRACTICAL TIPS FOR TAKING APIXABAN:

- Apixaban should be taken two times a day with or without food as prescribed.

### WHAT IF YOU MISS A DOSE?

It is important to take apixaban twice a day every day. Be sure you fill your prescription on time. If you miss a dose:

- Within 6 hours, take your missed dose and then continue your regular dosing
- More than 6 hours, skip the dose and take the next dose at the usual time
- Do not take a double dose

### DOES APIXABAN HAVE SIDE EFFECTS?

Most people do not experience side effects.

- Blood thinners can increase the risk of bleeding, but most bleeding, if any, is minor.
  - Minor bleeding stops on its own and does not last long. Examples of minor bleeding include nose bleeding, gum bleeding, bruising, etc.
  - Major or serious bleeding (see below) is more serious, requires medical attention, and may include stopping apixaban, at least temporarily.



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**Thrombose Canada**

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## WHEN SHOULD YOU CONTACT YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER URGENTLY?

If you have any of the following symptoms of serious bleeding:

- Becoming pale, very weak and tired, shortness of breath or chest pain
- Black/tarry or bloody bowel movements
- Bleeding from the rectum
- Pink/red or dark coloured urine
- Excessive menstrual bleeding
- Coughing or vomiting up blood
- Any bleeding that won't stop
- Physical injury such as head injury, broken bones, car accidents, sports injuries

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DISCUSS WITH YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS?

- Be sure to tell your health care providers that you are taking apixaban if you need surgery, dental work, chiropractic manipulations, any invasive procedure, or will be exposed to any bleeding risk.
- If you start any new medicine, including herbal medications or medications you can get at a pharmacy without a prescription
- Playing contact sports or any activities that may put you at risk of injury or bleeding is not recommended and should be discussed.

## DOES APIXABAN REQUIRE ANY KIND OF MONITORING?

- No regular blood testing to check the level of apixaban is needed. Your health care provider will check your kidney function (a blood test) once a year, and more often if your kidneys are not working well.
- Patients taking apixaban do require follow-up with their physician.
- You should have a wallet card or ID bracelet that states you are taking a blood thinner (apixaban).

## TAKE AWAY MESSAGE

- Apixaban reduces your risk of developing blood clots.
- Remember to take apixaban on time and refill your prescription early.
- Do not stop taking apixaban without talking to your doctor.
- Missing doses will reduce the effectiveness of this medicine. Immediately report symptoms of a blood clot, such as stroke or blood clots in the leg or arm (DVT) or lungs (PE) (refer to the Thrombosis Canada website), to an emergency room.
- Take the medication for the duration indicated by your doctor and don't stop prior to that without talking to your doctor first.
- Immediately report any unusual or major bleeding.
- Changes to your health and/or medicines may affect apixaban. Contact your health care provider if these occur.
- Having an ID bracelet and wallet card with your medical information is a good idea.



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