

Xarelto

When you have, or are at risk of having blood clots form in the deep veins of your body, called Deep Vein Thrombosis or DVT, or if you have a heart condition called Atrial Fibrillation, you may be prescribed Xarelto.

Its generic name is Rivaroxaban.

To understand how Xarelto works, let's look at how blood clots can affect your body.

When you have Atrial Fibrillation, blood can pool in the chambers of your heart and blood clots can form. The blood clot may travel to the brain and cause a stroke.

When you have DVT blood clots can form in the deep veins of your body; usually in your legs, and can cause serious health problems.

Sometimes a clot may break away and travel through your blood vessels. Called an 'embolus', this moving clot can travel to the brain, heart or lungs and cause severe complications including stroke, heart attack, difficulty breathing – even death.

Xarelto is an oral medication used to break up these clots and keep the blood thin.

Your healthcare provider will decide how much Xarelto you need to take. It can come in tablets or liquid form.

Tablets come in 2.5 mg, 10 mg, 15 mg, and 20 mg doses. These can be taken with or without food.

Make sure you understand what dose you are supposed to take to avoid injury.

Xarelto is a powerful medication. Some people should not take it.

Do not take Xarelto if: you are allergic to any of its ingredients, have active or uncontrolled bleeding, have an artificial heart valve, or have kidney or liver problems.

Before taking Xarelto tell your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant. Discuss any possible risks to your baby with your healthcare provider.

Do not breastfeed while taking Xarelto.

Before taking Xarelto, tell your healthcare provider if you have a history of: bleeding problems, high blood pressure, anemia, stroke, or stomach ulcers.

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Let all of your healthcare providers know you are taking Xarelto, including your dentist.

You may need to stop taking your medication a few days before your appointment.

Before taking Xarelto, give your healthcare provider a complete list of all other medications you use, including vitamins and herbal supplements like St. John's Wort.

Some over-the-counter medications you may take can increase your risk of bleeding.

When taking Xarelto avoid: Aspirin, Ibuprofen like Advil or Motrin, and Naproxen like Aleve.

Do not take any other oral blood thinner medications like Warfarin while taking this medication.

Talk to your healthcare provider about your medication options.

When taking Xarelto you may have regular tests to see how well it is working and to check for side effects. Keep all of your healthcare and lab appointments.

The most common side effect of Xarelto is bleeding. Be careful to avoid getting a cut or injury.

Other common side effects include: dizziness and headache, itchy skin, and back pain.

If you do notice any of these side effects contact your doctor about how to manage them.

Call 911 if you have an allergic reaction like: trouble breathing, hives, or swelling of your face or throat.

Or if you have: unusual bleeding or abnormal signs of blood; swelling or discomfort in your stomach; sudden leg or foot pain, purple toes or fingers; sudden dizziness, weakness or headache; shortness of breath; fast heartbeat; pale skin; yellowing of the eyes or skin; or you stop urinating.

Get help right away!

This is not the complete list of side effects. Make sure you discuss all possible side effects with your healthcare provider.

Remember to take Xarelto exactly as prescribed.

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Ask your doctor or pharmacist how best to take the liquid formulation.

If you think you have taken too much Xarelto, call 911.

Store Xarelto at room temperature, not too hot or too cold, away from moisture and direct sunlight.

Keep it out of sight and out of reach of any children.

Xarelto can reduce your risk of dangerous blood clots and stroke. But it is a powerful medication that should only be taken exactly as prescribed.

If you have any questions about Xarelto, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.