



Read this important information before taking:

ISMP
INSTITUTE FOR SAFE
MEDICATION PRACTICES

Xarelto (rivaroxaban)

Take extra care! Xarelto is a high-alert medicine.

This means that Xarelto has been proven to be safe and effective, but serious harm, such as severe bleeding or a stroke, can occur if it is not taken exactly as directed.

When Your Doctor Prescribes Xarelto (a blood thinner)



Tell

- ❑ **1 Tell your doctor about all your diseases and conditions.** Xarelto may not be right for you if you have any of the following: bleeding disorders, kidney or liver disease, stomach ulcers, problems with your heart valves, artificial heart valves, open wounds, if you tend to fall, or if you are at risk for falls.
- ❑ **2 Tell the doctor what else you take.** Certain medicines increase the risk of bleeding when taken with Xarelto. Provide the doctor with a list of all the prescription, over-the-counter, and herbal medicines, vitamins, and other dietary supplements you take. While taking Xarelto, tell your doctor if you start or stop any medicines or dietary supplements. Common over-the-counter and herbal medicines to avoid can be found on the other side of this page in the **Fast Facts** table.
- ❑ **3 Know why you take Xarelto and how to take it.** Check that you understand how to take Xarelto by telling the doctor why you are taking the medicine, what time of the day you will take it, what strength pills you will take (10 mg, 15 mg, or 20 mg), and how many pills you will take each time. If you take Xarelto to treat a blood clot in your legs or lung, the dose will be reduced after a few weeks (typically 21 days). In this case, your doctor may prescribe a Xarelto Starter Pack for the first 30 days with directions for taking the correct dose each day.
- ❑ **4 Talk about costs.** Let your doctor know if you might have trouble paying for Xarelto. The doctor may be able to help you get a discount or switch you to a less expensive medicine.



When Taking Xarelto



- ❑ **5 Take exactly as directed.** Take your Xarelto at the same time or times each day and do not skip any doses. If you take Xarelto **once daily** and forget to take a dose, do **NOT** take more than one dose at the same time. Take it as soon as you remember unless it is close to the time of your next dose. If you take Xarelto **twice daily** and forget to take a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is close to the time of the next dose, you may take two doses at the same time to make up for the missed dose.



- ❑ **6 Do not stop the medicine.** Do not stop taking Xarelto unless your doctor tells you to stop. Refill your prescription before you run out. Stopping the medicine may increase your risk of forming blood clots or having a stroke.



- ❑ **7 Tell all your healthcare providers.** Tell all your doctors, dentists, and pharmacists that you are taking Xarelto.



- ❑ **8 Take precautions to prevent bleeding.** Avoid sharp objects, rough sports, and fall risks (climbing a ladder, for example) that can lead to bruising, cuts, or injuries. Use a soft toothbrush and electric razor, and blow your nose gently.

When You Should Call Your Doctor



Call

- ❑ **9 Call immediately** if you fall or injure yourself, especially if you hit your head, or if you experience any signs of bleeding, a blood clot, a stroke, or an allergic reaction, which are listed on the other side of this page. If you can't reach your doctor right away, seek immediate treatment in an emergency room.



- ❑ **10 Call before** you have any dental work, surgery, a spinal or epidural injection, or any other type of medical procedure that may cause you to bleed. Your doctor may tell you to stop taking Xarelto for a while. Ask your doctor to tell you when to start taking Xarelto again after the procedure.

Xarelto tablets come in three strengths (10 mg, 15 mg, and 20 mg). The front of each tablet is marked with a number that corresponds to the strength. The back of each tablet is marked with the letters Xa. Be sure the number on the front of the tablet matches the strength you need for your prescribed dose.



10 mg



15 mg



20 mg

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For more information to help keep you safe, visit: www.consumermedsafety.org.

Seek Medical Treatment **Immediately** if You Have Signs of Bleeding, Blood Clot, Stroke, or Allergic Reaction



Signs of **bleeding**

- Unusual pain, swelling, discomfort (may also be a sign of a clot)
- Unusual or easy bruising
- Pink, red, or brown urine
- Prolonged bleeding of gums or cuts
- Persistent, frequent nosebleeds
- Unusually heavy/long menstrual flow
- Coughing up blood clots
- Vomit that is bloody or looks like “coffee grounds”
- Severe dizziness, weakness, headache, fainting, unusual or persistent tiredness
- Bloody red or black tarry stools (poop)
- Joint pain



Signs of a **blood clot** or **stroke**

- **In the lung:** chest pain, fast heart rate, coughing, trouble breathing, fever
- **In the arm or leg:** sudden pain, swelling, redness, warmth, tenderness
- **In the brain (stroke):** headache; dizziness; seizure; vision changes; slurred speech or trouble speaking; weakness or tingling in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of body



Signs of an **allergic reaction**

- Skin rash or hives
- Itching
- Trouble breathing
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness
- Swollen face or tongue

Signs of a Stroke: Act **F.A.S.T.**



FACE
DROOPING



ARM
WEAKNESS



SPEECH
DIFFICULTY



TIME
TO CALL 911

Topics	Fast Facts
Generic name	■ rivaroxaban (pronounced riv-a-ROX-a-ban)
Brand name	■ Xarelto, Xarelto Starter Pack (no generic available)
Common uses	■ Treat and prevent blood clots in the leg, arm, or lung ■ Reduce the risk of stroke and blood clots in people with atrial fibrillation not caused by an abnormal heart valve ■ Prevent blood clots after hip or knee replacement surgery
Usual dose	■ Your dose will depend on why you take Xarelto ■ The usual dose is 10 mg, 15 mg, or 20 mg daily (although some patients take Xarelto twice daily for the first 21 days when treating a blood clot) ■ Your doctor may prescribe a lower dose if you have problems with kidney function ■ Let your doctor know if you forget to take Xarelto
Taking your pills with food	■ Take the 15 mg or 20 mg tablets with food ■ The 10 mg tablets may be taken with or without food
Crushing your pills	■ If you cannot swallow the tablet whole, it may be crushed and mixed with applesauce immediately before taking it ■ Eat food after taking a crushed 15 mg or 20 mg tablet (10 mg tablets may be taken with or without food)
Safety during pregnancy/ breastfeeding	■ Speak with your healthcare provider if you are, or plan to become, pregnant or breastfeeding ■ It is not known if Xarelto will harm an unborn baby or nursing baby ■ Bleeding in the mother may be a concern when the baby is born
Storage	■ Store at room temperature in a dry place; do not store in a bathroom ■ Keep Xarelto and all medicines out of the reach of children
Side effects to report to your doctor immediately	■ Signs of bleeding, blood clot, stroke, or allergic reaction (see top of page)
Over-the-counter medicines, herbals, or vitamins that should NOT be taken with Xarelto UNLESS prescribed by your doctor	■ Aspirin and aspirin-containing products ■ Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) such as ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) or naproxen (Aleve) ■ Herbals or vitamins with blood-thinning traits (e.g., ginger, garlic, ginkgo biloba, alfalfa, anise, bilberry, St. John's wort, feverfew, fish oil, vitamin E)
Prescription medicines that should NOT be taken with Xarelto	■ Tell your doctor and pharmacist about the medicines you take, since many medicines interact with Xarelto ■ Especially tell your doctor if you take ketoconazole (Nizoral) tablets, itraconazole (Sporanox, Onmel), ritonavir (Norvir), clarithromycin (Biaxin), rifampin (Rifadin), phenytoin (Dilantin), and carbamazepine (Tegretol) ■ Also tell your doctor if you take an antidepressant (e.g., Lexapro, Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil, Cymbalta, Effexor XR) ■ Do not take other blood-thinning medicines, including apixaban (Eliquis), dabigatran (Pradaxa), edoxaban (Savaysa), warfarin (Coumadin, Jantoven), enoxaparin (Lovenox), and heparin
Special tests your doctor may prescribe	■ Special tests are generally not needed to see if your blood-thinning level is in the right range ■ Your doctor should check your kidney function with a blood test before starting and while taking Xarelto