

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) is a medication that prevents blood clots from forming in your blood. It is known as an anticoagulant or “blood thinner.” Rivaroxaban does not actually thin the blood. It prevents new clots from forming and keeps existing clots from getting bigger and causing more serious problems.

Take rivaroxaban exactly as prescribed at the same time each day.

Rivaroxaban does not dissolve clots that have already formed. It is used to prevent harmful clotting related to certain blood vessels, or heart and lung conditions.

Dosage and administration

Your physician or pharmacist will choose the correct dose of rivaroxaban based on your age, weight, how well your kidneys are working and what other medications you take.

You must take rivaroxaban tablets with food to let it absorb into your body.

Take rivaroxaban **exactly as prescribed** at the same time each day. Do not stop taking rivaroxaban unless your physician tells you to stop.

Do not run out of rivaroxaban. Refill your prescription before you run out. The clot-fighting effects of rivaroxaban begin to wear off in about 24 hours.

Missed dose

If you miss a dose of rivaroxaban, take it as soon as you remember, unless it is close to your next dose.

- If you take rivaroxaban once a day, and it is more than 12 hours past the time you take your dose, skip the dose you missed and wait to take your next scheduled dose.
- If you take rivaroxaban 2 times a day, and it is more than 6 hours past the time you take your dose, skip the dose you missed and wait to take your next scheduled dose.

This way, you do not take a double or extra dose. Then, go back to your regular dosing schedule.

Alcohol

Do not drink alcohol while taking rivaroxaban. Drinking alcohol can increase the risk of bleeding in your stomach and intestines.

Medication and herbal interactions

Some over-the-counter (OTC) nonprescription medications can increase or decrease the effect of rivaroxaban. It is important to talk with your physician or pharmacist before you use aspirin or other pain medications known as NSAIDs (nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs). When buying a pain reliever, always read the label ingredients and ask your physician, nurse or pharmacist for advice if you are unsure what it contains. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) is the preferred OTC pain reliever for most patients.

Do not use these common OTC medications:

Aspirin-containing medications	NSAIDs
▪ Excedrin®	▪ Ibuprofen (Advil®, Midol®, etc.)
▪ Anacin®	▪ Naproxen (Aleve®)
▪ Bufferin®	

Do not use cold or sinus medication, laxatives and antacids that contain aspirin or NSAIDs.

Bleeding and what to do if you are bleeding

Rivaroxaban can increase your risk of bleeding and bruising. Be careful when you do activities that could cause injury, a cut or bruising.

- Tell your physician if you have any falls, a blow to your body or head, or other injuries.
- Put a non-slip bath mat in the tub to prevent accidents.
- Be careful not to cut yourself. This includes taking special care in brushing your teeth and in shaving. Use a soft toothbrush and floss gently. Use an electric shaver rather than a manual razor with blades.
- If you cut yourself, put pressure on the area for 5 minutes to make sure the bleeding has stopped.
- It is important that you carry identification, such as a medical alert bracelet, that shows you are taking rivaroxaban. This can help you get proper treatment in case of an emergency.

When to call your physician

Call your physician right away or come to an emergency department if any of the following happen:

Signs of bleeding

- Bleeding from cuts or wounds that does not stop
- Nosebleeds that happen often or do not stop
- Coughing up blood

- Red, pink or brown urine
- Vomit that is bloody or looks like coffee grounds
- Bright red or black stool that looks like tar (if you are not taking iron supplements)
- Gum bleeding that is in excess or does not stop
- Unusual bruising or a change in skin color that grows or does not get better over time
- Dizziness or faintness
- Stomach or intestinal upset
- Headaches that do not go away
- Heavy menstrual bleeding that is more than usual

Signs of clotting

- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain
- Dizziness
- Shortness of breath
- Swelling and/or redness in the legs or arms
- Pain when walking, or pain and warmth in the legs or arms

Please ask questions to make sure you understand how much rivaroxaban to take and when to take it. Please call your physician if you have any questions.