

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs)

Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

A **direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC)** is an anticoagulant medicine also known as a blood thinner. You take this medicine by mouth as a tablet or capsule. Some can be given by a feeding tube. This medicine is given to:

- Slow the clotting ability of your blood
- Treat any current blood clots
- Prevent blood clots from forming

Cancer patients are often prescribed blood thinning medicines as part of their treatment plan. Patients with atrial fibrillation/flutter (an irregular or very rapid heartbeat) may need to take anticoagulants to prevent a stroke. Anticoagulants are given in lower doses to patients with certain high-risk cancers and after major surgery to prevent blood clots from forming.

Precautions



Before you take this medicine, tell your doctor if:

- You are pregnant, think you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding
- You are allergic to any DOAC products or experienced adverse reaction to DOACs
- You have a personal or family history of bleeding problems such as hemophilia
- You have a history of stroke, high blood pressure or blood vessel problems
- You have a stomach ulcer, diabetes, heart infection, kidney or liver disease
- You have recently had a stroke, surgery on your eyes, brain or spine, or had a heart valve replacement
- You take or plan to take any of these medicines:
 - Antiplatelet medicines such as
 - aspirin, cilostazol (Pletal®)
 - clopidogrel (Plavix®)
 - dipyridamole (Persantine®, Aggrenox®)
 - NSAIDs such as
 - diclofenac (Voltaren®)
 - diflunisal (Dolobid®)
 - etodolac (Lodine®)
 - ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®)
 - indomethacin (Indocin®)
 - ketoprofen (Orudis®)
 - prasugrel (Effient®)
 - ticagrelor (Brilinta™)
 - ticlopidine (Ticlid®)
 - vorapaxar (Zontivity®)
 - ketorolac (Toradol®)
 - meloxicam (Mobic®)
 - nabumetone (Relafen®)
 - naproxen (Aleve®)
 - oxaprozin (Daypro®)
 - piroxicam (Feldene®)

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

- Other anticoagulants such as
 - enoxaparin (Lovenox®)
 - dalteparin (Fragmin®)
 - fondaparinux (Arixtra®)
 - heparin
 - warfarin (Coumadin®)

Important Information About Your Medicine

- Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking, including non-prescription medicines (over-the-counter), nutritional supplements, vitamins, minerals, or herbal products as some of these may increase the risk for bleeding.
- Store this medicine at room temperature and away from excessive heat, moisture and light. **Do not** freeze.
- Keep this medicine out of the reach of children and pets.
- Be careful not to fall, injure, cut or bruise yourself.
- Take special care while brushing your teeth. Use a soft toothbrush and floss gently.
- Apply pressure to any cut for 10 minutes to stop the bleeding. Draw a line around the edge of new bruises to monitor their size.
- You may need to stop taking this medicine before any procedure. Ask your health care team if you should stop this medicine before the procedure. This includes dental work. If you are told to stop taking your blood thinning medicines for any reason, be sure to ask when you can begin taking it again after the procedure.
- Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions about taking this medicine.

Timeframe for Therapy



You may take a blood thinning medicine for at least 3 to 6 months when treating a blood clot. You may need to take it longer. **Do not** stop taking this medicine unless instructed to do so by your doctor or if you have a serious bleeding problem. If you need a refill, contact your primary health care team.

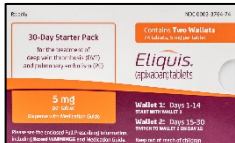






There are 4 medicines that fall under the DOAC category. They are:

- Apixaban (Eliquis)
- Dabigatran (Pradaxa)
- Edoxaban (Savaysa)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)










Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ©2023
Patient Education

Medicines

Apixaban (Eliquis) – Take 2 times a day, every 12 hours			
Treats	Blood clots	Atrial fibrillation	Prevention of blood clots after surgery
How to Take	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 10 mg 2 times a day for first 7 days*. This means you will take 2 (5 mg) tablets.On day 8, start to take 1 of the 5 mg tablets, 2 times a day. <div><p>First month dose pack</p></div>	<p>Take 2.5 mg or 5 mg 2 times a day</p> <div><p>2.5 mg tablet</p><p>5 mg tablet</p></div>	<p>Take 2.5 mg 2 times a day</p> <div><p>2.5 mg tablet</p></div>
Notes	<p>If you cannot swallow the tablet whole, crush it and mix with water or juice and drink right away.</p> <p>*If you started this medicine or another anticoagulant in the hospital you may be told to take the 10 mg dose for less than 7 days.</p>		
Dabigatran (Pradaxa) – Take 2 times a day, every 12 hours			
Treats	Blood clots	Atrial fibrillation	
How to Take	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 150 mg 2 times a dayBefore you begin to take this medicine, you will need to receive an injectable anticoagulant. This medicine is injected for at least 5 days.After at least 5 days of the injection, you begin to take the capsule. <div><p>150 mg capsule</p></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 2 times a day.You will take a 75 or 150 mg capsuleNo injectable anticoagulant needed <div><p>75 mg capsule</p><p>150 mg capsule</p></div>	
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Keep this medicine in the original container to protect it from light. After the bottle is opened, the capsules must be used within 4 months.Do not place in a pill organizer.Swallow the capsules whole with a full glass of water. Do not open, break, crush or chew the capsules.Do not give through a feeding tube.		

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

Edoxaban (Savaysa) – Take 1 time a day				
Treats	Blood clots		Atrial fibrillation	
How to Take	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 1 time a dayYou will take a 30 or 60 mg tabletBefore you begin to take this medicine, you will need to receive an injectable anticoagulant. This medicine is injected for at least 5 days.After at least 5 days of the injection, you begin to take the tablet. <div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div>30 mg tablet</div><div>60 mg tablet</div></div>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 1 time a day.You will take a 30 or 60 mg tablet.No injectable anticoagulant needed <div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div>30 mg tablet</div><div>60 mg tablet</div></div>	
Notes	If you cannot swallow the tablet whole, crush it and mix with applesauce and eat right away.			
Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) – If instructed to take 2 times a day, take every 12 hours				
Treats	Blood Clots	Atrial fibrillation	Prevention of blood clots after surgery	Coronary artery disease
How to Take	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 15 mg 2 times a day for 21 days*.Starting on day 22, take a 20 mg tablet 1 time a day.Take with food <div></div> <div></div> <div>Dose pack</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 1 time a dayYou will take a 15 or 20 mg tablet.Take with food <div><div></div><div></div></div> <div><div>15 mg tablet</div><div>20 mg tablet</div></div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 1 time a dayYou will take a 10 mg tablet <div><div></div></div> <div>10 mg tablet</div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take 2 times a day with aspirinYou will take a 2.5 mg tablet
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you cannot swallow the rivaroxaban tablets whole, you can crush and mix with applesauce and take right it away.If you have a feeding tube, ask your provider how to take this medicine via a feeding tube. <p>*If you started this medicine or another anticoagulant in the hospital, you may be told to take the 15 mg dose for less than 21 days.</p>			

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

Home Dosing

You may receive the first dose of this medicine while in the hospital. If so, ask your nurse what time you were given the last dose. When you are home, if you are to take this medicine 2 times a day (or every 12 hours), slowly adjust the timing to what is convenient for you.

For example, if your first dose was at 3 a.m. in the hospital, your next dose should be at 3 p.m. at home. If you do not want a 3 a.m. and 3 p.m. schedule every day, move the time forward or back by 1 hour on the next day until the schedule is right for you. If the first dose is given at 3 p.m., the next dose is at 4 a.m., then the following dose at 5 p.m., and the next dose at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. This can take several days until you are on a schedule that you want to follow every day.

Missed Dose

If you miss a dose of edoxaban or rivaroxaban, follow these instructions if you are scheduled to take this medicine **1 time a day**.

Situation	What to Do	Example
You remember your missed dose on the same day.	Take the dose immediately. That new time is now your normal dose time.	If you take your medicine at 5 p.m. but forget until 7 p.m. that same day, take the dose at 7 p.m. You will then take medicine at 7 p.m. going forward.
You forgot your dose until the next day.	Take your dose at your normal dose time.	If you take your medicine at 5 p.m. but forgot on Monday. Then, take the dose at 5 p.m. on Tuesday and every day going forward.

If you are scheduled to take apixaban, rivaroxaban or dabigatran **2 times a day (every 12 hours)** and miss a dose, follow these instructions.

Situation	What to Do	Example
You remember your missed dose on the same day.	Take the missed dose when you remember, if your next dose is more than 6 hours away.	If you take your medicine at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. but forget your 6 a.m. dose and remember at 8 a.m., take your dose immediately. This is because your next dose is at 6 p.m., which is more than 6 hours away. The next day, return to your 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. schedule.
You remember your missed dose on the same day.	Skip the missed dose if your next dose is less than 6 hours away.	If you take your medicine at 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. but forget your 6 a.m. dose and remember at 1 p.m., skip the AM dose and take at 6 p.m. The next day, return to your 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. schedule.



Do not double up on your dose.

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ©2023
Patient Education

Side Effects

- Bleeding/bruising
 - You may bruise and bleed more easily.
 - Try not to cut or injure yourself. If you shave, always use an electric shaver.
 - **Do not** take any aspirin or other pain relievers such as ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) or naproxen (Naprosyn or Aleve) unless your doctor says it is OK. These medicines can affect how your platelets work. Your doctor will monitor your platelet count while on this medicine.

These are the most common side effects. Other side effects may occur and should be reported to your doctor. **Do not** change your dose or schedule unless you are told to do so by your doctor or if you are having a serious bleeding problem. Report any problems to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Emergency Care

Talk with your doctor **right away** if you develop a skin rash, hives or itching, or blistering or peeling of your skin.

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency center if you notice any of the following:



- Allergic reaction
 - Swelling of your face, mouth or tongue
 - Tightness in your chest or throat
 - Shortness of breath or wheezing
 - Fast or irregular breathing
 - Light-headedness, fainting, dizziness or confusion
- Unusual and serious bruising or bleeding from anywhere on your body
- Bright red blood in your stool or dark tarry stools
- Blood in your urine (pink-tinged, red or dark brown)
- Coughing or vomiting of blood or coffee-ground-like substance
- Serious fall or hit to your head
- Chest pain or shortness of breath
- Irregular heartbeat
- A change in your mental status, confusion, very bad headache, drowsiness, slurred speech, sudden unexplained vomiting, numbness or weakness in a limb, change in vision or ability to walk
- Redness, swelling, warmth or pain in your arms or legs
- Any other serious symptoms or changes in your health

Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ©2023
Patient Education

Cost of Medicine

If needed, help is available to cover the cost of your medicines. If you had your prescription filled at an MD Anderson pharmacy, contact the pharmacy to determine if you qualify for an assistance program. If your prescription was filled outside of MD Anderson, contact your health care team to discuss other options for treatment.

If you have questions, send your team a message in MyChart. Expect a response within 1 business day. Each medical message goes to your doctor's nursing team to ensure messages are read in a timely manner. If your concern is urgent, call your center and ask to speak with a nurse. If you need to reach someone after hours or during weekends, call askMDAnderson at 877-632-6789 to talk with a nurse.

Outside Help With Costs

Apixaban: <https://www.Eliquis.BMSCustomerConnect.com/AFIB/Savings-and-Support>

Dabigatran: <https://www.Pradaxa.com/Free-Support>

Edoxaban: <https://Savaysa.com/Savaysa-Support>

Rivaroxaban: <https://www.Xarelto-US.com/Xarelto-Cost>

Resources

For additional resources visit the MD Anderson Blood Clots and Anticoagulants website <https://bit.ly/BloodClotsandAnticoagulants>

How to Use QR Codes with a Smartphone or Tablet

- Make sure your mobile device has an internet signal or Wi-Fi connection.
- Open the camera app on your smartphone or tablet.
- Scan the QR code with the camera on your device.
- Tap the pop-up notification. The video will play in your web browser.



Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs): Apixaban (Eliquis®), Dabigatran (Pradaxa®), Edoxaban (Savaysa®) and Rivaroxaban (Xarelto®)

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center ©2023
Patient Education

Anticoagulation Identification Card

Consider printing out this patient identification card and placing in your wallet so in case of an emergency, medical teams are aware you are taking this medicine.

<p>Patient Identification Card</p> <p>To anyone providing medical care:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(name)</p> <p>is taking _____, an anticoagulant.</p> <p>-----fold-----</p> <p>In an emergency, call:</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Doctor's name: _____</p> <p>Doctor's phone: _____</p>
