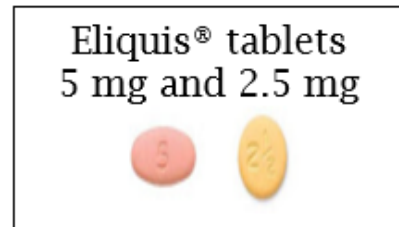


## Apixaban (Eliquis®)

### What is apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Apixaban is a blood thinner medication. This medication is also called by its brand name, Eliquis®.
- Apixaban (Eliquis®) is used to reduce the risk of blood clots and stroke in people with an abnormal heart rhythm (called atrial fibrillation), in people who have had a blood clot, or in people who have had orthopedic surgery.
  - Blood clots can block a blood vessel, cutting off blood supply to the area.
  - Rarely, clots can break into pieces and travel in the bloodstream. Those pieces may get stuck in the heart (causing a heart attack), the lungs (causing a pulmonary embolus), or in the brain (causing a stroke).
- **If you were taking warfarin (Coumadin®) and you are starting to take apixaban (Eliquis®), do not continue taking warfarin.** Apixaban (Eliquis®) replaces warfarin.



### How should I take apixaban (Eliquis®)?

- Take apixaban (Eliquis®) exactly as prescribed by your doctor.
- You can take apixaban (Eliquis®) with or without food.
- If you miss a dose, take the dose as soon as you remember on the same day. Do not take a double dose to make up for missing a dose.
- Do not stop taking apixaban (Eliquis®) suddenly without telling your doctor. This can put you at risk of having a stroke or a blood clot.

- If you take too much apixaban (Eliquis®), call your doctor or the Anticoagulation Clinic. If you are experiencing any bleeding which you cannot get to stop, go to the nearest emergency room (ER).

### **How should I store apixaban (Eliquis®)?**

Store this medication at room temperature in a dry area. Avoid storing it in the bathroom.

### **What should I know about the risks of taking apixaban (Eliquis®)?**

- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it reduces your blood's ability to clot. While you take apixaban (Eliquis®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can cause bleeding which can be serious. You may have a higher risk of bleeding if you take apixaban (Eliquis®) and:
  - You are over 75 years old.
  - You have kidney problems.
  - You have stomach or intestine bleeding that is recent or recurs (goes away and then comes back).
  - You have a stomach ulcer.
  - You take other medications that increase your risk of bleeding, including:
    - Aspirin or products that contain aspirin
    - Long-term use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including ibuprofen and naproxen
    - Clopidogrel (Plavix®), prasugrel (Effient®), or ticagrelor (Brilinta®)
    - Any medication that contains heparin

## **What are the possible side effects of apixaban (Eliquis®)?**

- Apixaban (Eliquis®) can increase your risk of bleeding because it reduces your blood's ability to clot. While you take apixaban (Eliquis®), you may bruise more easily and it may take longer for bleeding to stop.
- For some people, apixaban (Eliquis®) can cause symptoms of an allergic reaction, including hives, rash, and itching. Get medical help immediately if you get any of these symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
  - Chest pain or chest tightness
  - Swelling of your face or tongue
  - Trouble breathing, or wheezing
  - Feeling dizzy or faint

## **When should I call my doctor or the Anticoagulation Clinic?**

Call your doctor, or call us, if:

- You start or stop any medications, including over-the-counter medications or herbal supplements. These may affect the way apixaban (Eliquis®) works.
- You are having a surgery or a procedure, as you may need to stop taking apixaban (Eliquis®) for a short period of time before your procedure. Do not stop taking apixaban (Eliquis®) without talking with your doctor first.
- You need a medication refill. Try to tell your doctor before you are out of apixaban (Eliquis®) so you do not run out.
- You're unable to pay for apixaban (Eliquis®), or you're concerned about not being able to cover the cost.
- You have any unexpected bleeding or bleeding that lasts a long time, such as:
  - Unusual bleeding from the gums
  - Nose bleeds that happen often
  - Menstrual (period) or vaginal bleeding that is heavier than normal
  - Blood in your urine (pee that is red or the color of coffee or cola)

- Bruises that happen without a known cause, or bruises that get larger

## **When should I get emergency help?**

**Call 911 immediately if you have any of the following serious conditions:**

- You have any signs or symptoms of serious bleeding:
  - Severe bleeding, or bleeding you can't control
  - Red or black stools (poop that looks like tar)
  - Coughing up blood or blood clots
  - Vomiting up blood, or if your vomit looks like coffee grounds
  - Uncontrolled bleeding from your nose or gums
  - Cuts that will not stop bleeding
- You have any signs or symptoms of a stroke:
  - Dizziness, sudden loss of vision, or a sudden severe headache
  - Numbness or weakness in any arm or leg
  - Trouble speaking, or slurred speech
  - Drooping on one side of your face
- You have signs or symptoms of blood clots:
  - Sudden severe shortness of breath
  - Chest pain
  - Swelling, redness, heat or pain in any arm or leg

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